IT STARTED WITH MICHELANGELO, I THINK

SEE YOU IN EDEN

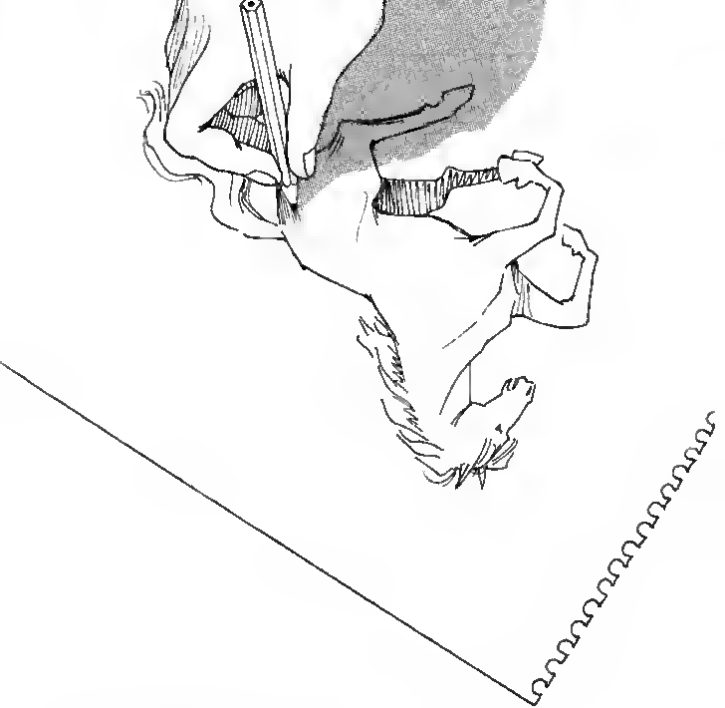
FUYUMI SORYO

SEE YOU IN EDEN

An *Afternoon Illusions* Project

a-illusions.kakyoku.org
#illusionary-noodles@irchighway.net

Scans: Cleo
Translation & Editing: KingFish
QC: Rion & erutan

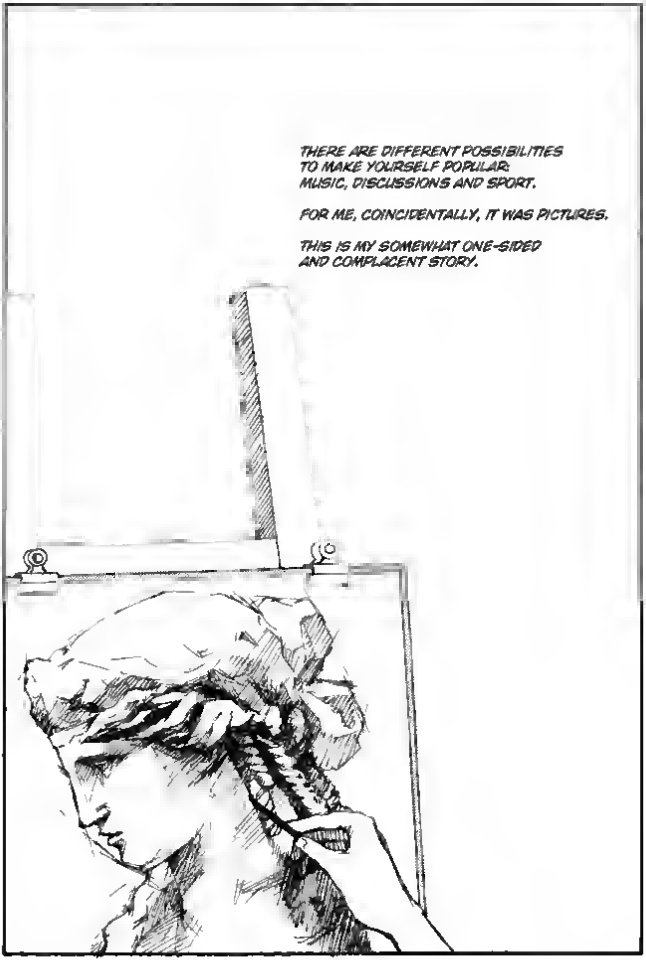


I'VE BEEN DRAWING SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
IT WASN'T LIKE I'D JUST SPEND ENTIRE DAYS DRAWING THOUGH.

I LIKED DRAWING HORSES THE MOST.
THE ADULTS LIKED THEM TOO

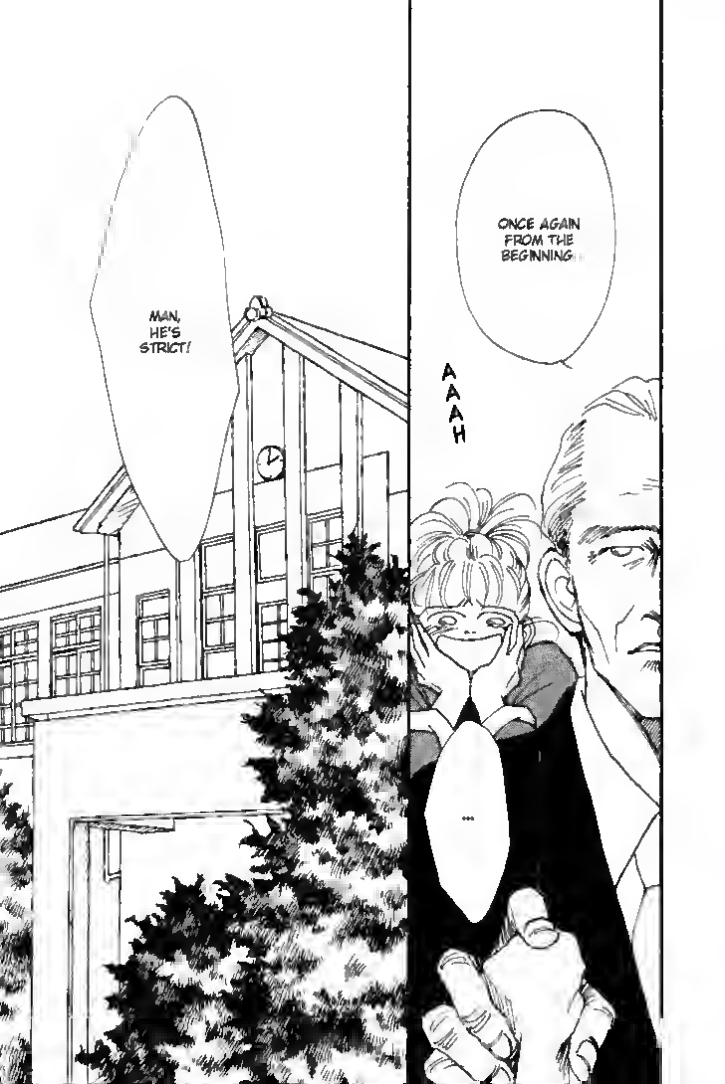
LATER MY PARENTS SENT ME TO AN ART SCHOOL.

BUT INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON DRAWING,
I LET MYSELF GET DIVERTED BY EVERYTHING AROUND ME.


THERE ARE DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES
TO MAKE YOURSELF POPULAR:
MUSIC, DISCUSSIONS AND SPORT.
FOR ME, COINCIDENTALLY, IT WAS PICTURES.
THIS IS MY SOMEWHAT ONE-SIDED
AND COMPLACENT STORY.

SAY, OBA, WHY SUCH A STRANGE NECK?!
I CRANED MY NECK YESTERDAY...
IT HURTS BADLY.
I DIDN'T MEAN YOURS, BUT ARIES' ..
THE HEAD IS TOO FAR IN THE BACK IT HAS TO BE MORE IN THE FRONT.
YES.
stroke
NOW THE SHOULDER ISN'T RIGHT ANYMORE

NOW THE PROPORTIONS OF HEAD AND TORSO DON'T FIT.
HM... MAYBE LIKE THIS...?
DON'T YOU SEE IT?
...
BEGONE ..!
RUBB RUBB


MAN, HE'S STRICT!
ONCE AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING...
AAAH
...

I THOUGHT THOSE 2 HOURS WOULD NEVER END...!
MY YOUTH IS GONE
LIVE WITH IT, TAMAKO
NAKATA KNOWS NO MERCY
WELL, HE'S A PERFECTIONIST.
ON TOP, HE COMES FROM THE UNIVERSITY!
SIGH. .
BE QUIET.
AR... ART...

* SOUTHEST MAIN ISLAND OF JAPAN

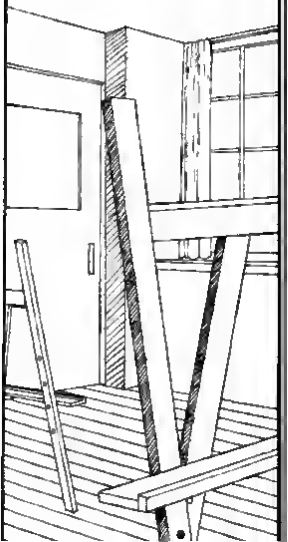
OH, I NEARLY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
HOW ON EARTH SHOULD I MAKE IT?
HA HA HA
UNLIKE AT OTHER SCHOOLS, WE GOT OUR GRADES BASED ON ART
AT MY SCHOOL THEY HAD AN AREA WHERE THEY TAUGHT ART. THEREFORE THE STUDY PLAN WAS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN NORMAL SCHOOLS.
HONESTLY..
WHY DOES HE SPEAK TOKYO DIALECT IN OITA*?
AND HOW CAN HE WEAR SUCH CLOTHES AT HIS AGE..?
SHE'S ANGRY BECAUSE OF THE PICTURE
SOUNDS LIKE HURT VANITY...
I DON'T LIKE HIM.
HE'S AN APE
* CITY ON KYUSHU

ART CLASSES: 14 HOURS.
NORMAL CLASSES: 22 HOURS

AT FIRST LOOK YOU MIGHT GET ENVIOUS AT US HAVING SO FEW HOURS.

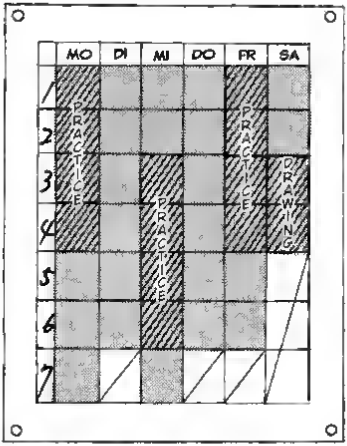
BUT THE STUDY PLAN WAS SO PACKED.
WE HAD MUCH COACHING AND INBETWEEN WE HAD TO FINISH OUR TASKS.

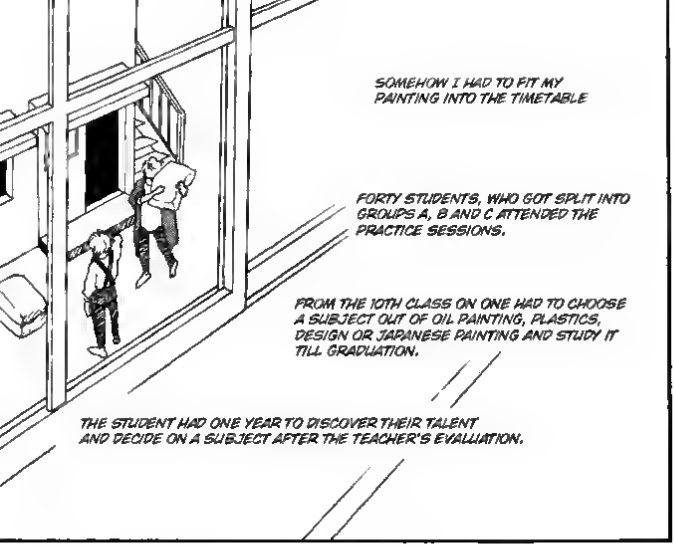
IT WASN'T MUCH FUN.



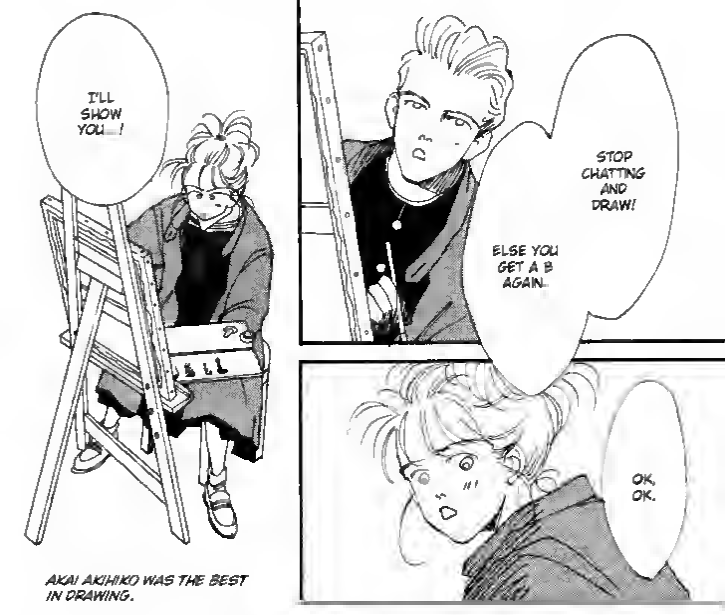
WE ONLY HAD A LIMITED AMOUNT OF HOURS TO FINISH OUR WORKS.
AS THE EXPECTATIONS WERE VERY HIGH, ONE TOOK ADDITIONAL HOURS VOLUNTARILY.

THE TIME TABLE ROUGHLY LOOKED LIKE THIS.

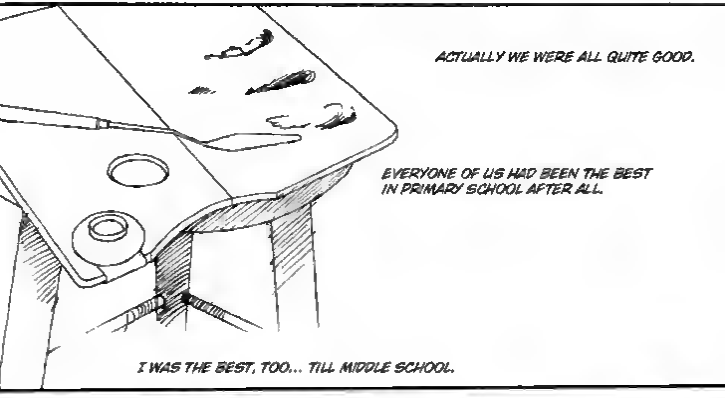



SOMEHOW I HAD TO FIT MY PAINTING INTO THE TIMETABLE
FORTY STUDENTS, WHO GOT SPLIT INTO GROUPS A, B AND C ATTENDED THE PRACTICE SESSIONS.
FROM THE 10TH CLASS ON ONE HAD TO CHOOSE A SUBJECT OUT OF OIL PAINTING, PLASTICS, DESIGN OR JAPANESE PAINTING AND STUDY IT TILL GRADUATION.
THE STUDENT HAD ONE YEAR TO DISCOVER THEIR TALENT AND DECIDE ON A SUBJECT AFTER THE TEACHER'S EVALUATION.

PLASTICS IS COOL
THEY WORK WITH JEANS
I, OBA TAMAKO, WAS STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DISCOVERY PHASE.



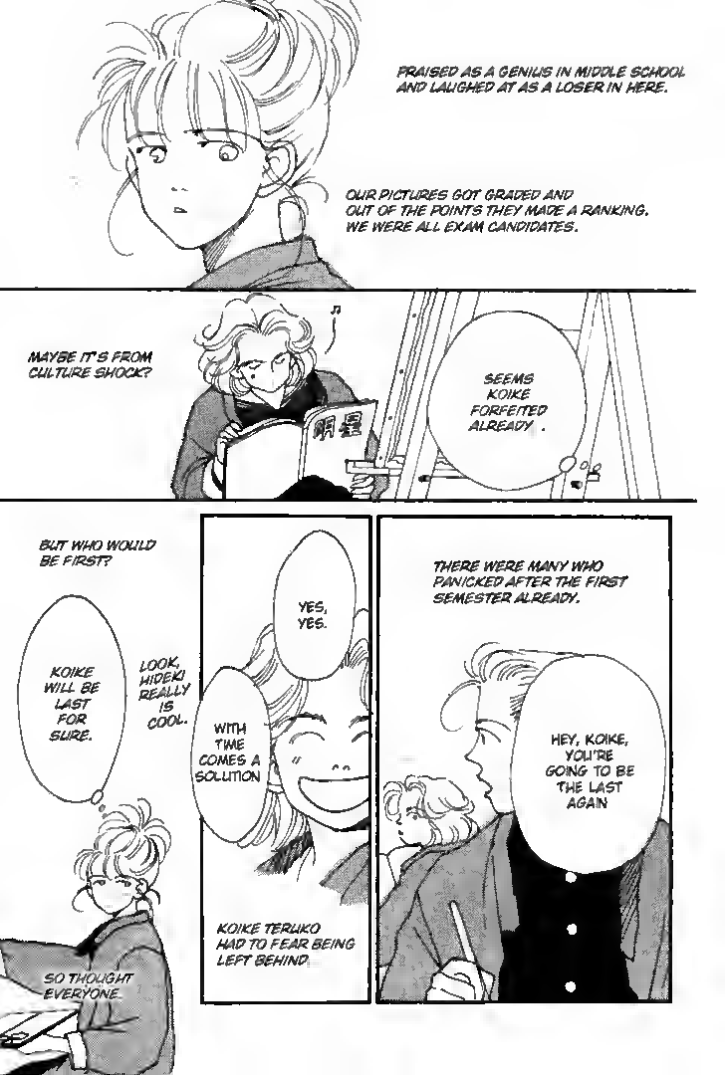
AKAI AKIHIKO WAS THE BEST IN DRAWING.

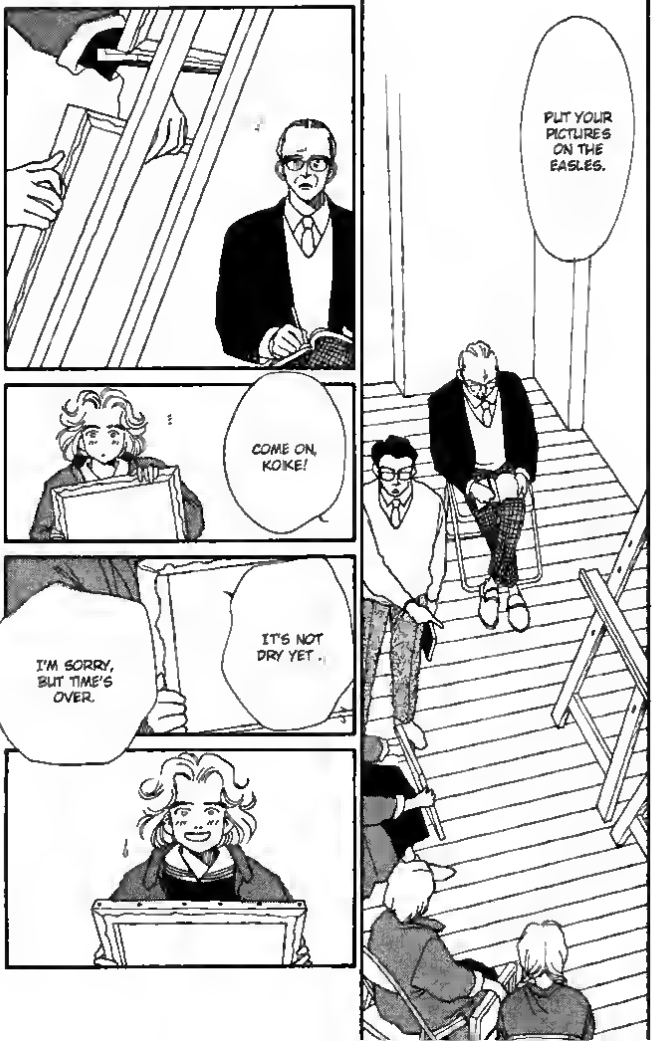


ACTUALLY WE WERE ALL QUITE GOOD.

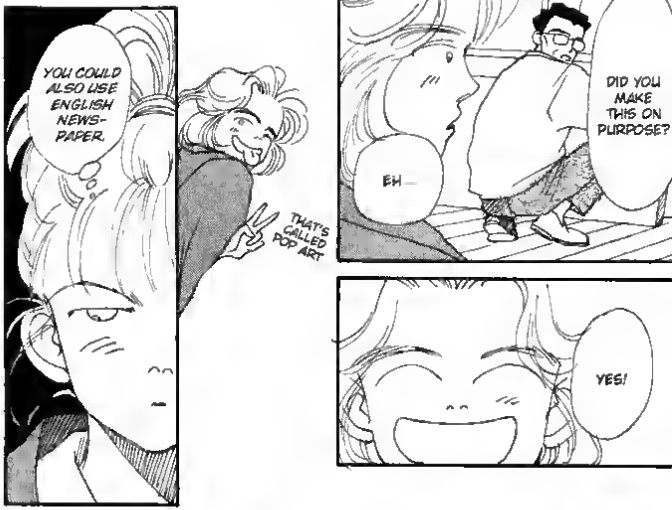
EVERYONE OF US HAD BEEN THE BEST IN PRIMARY SCHOOL AFTER ALL.

I WAS THE BEST, TOO... TILL MIDDLE SCHOOL.

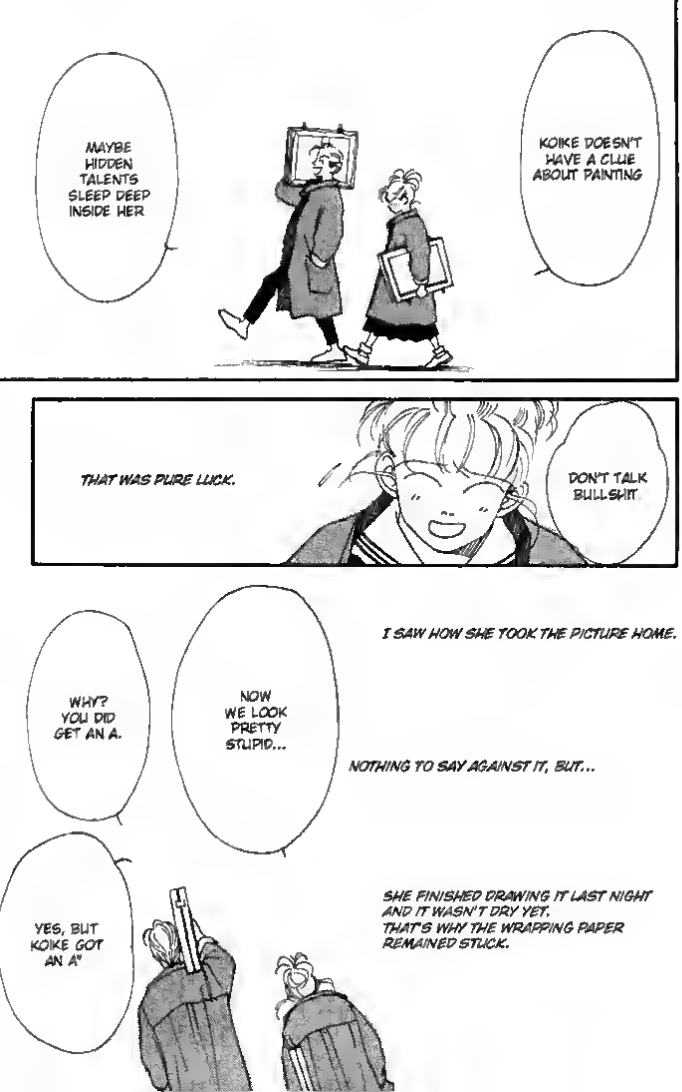

PRAISED AS A GENIUS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND LAUGHED AT AS A LOSER IN HERE.
OUR PICTURES GOT GRADED AND OUT OF THE POINTS THEY MADE A RANKING. WE WERE ALL EXAM CANDIDATES.
MAYBE IT'S FROM CULTURE SHOCK?
SEEMS KOIKE FORFEITED ALREADY.
BUT WHO WOULD BE FIRST?
KOIKE WILL BE LAST FOR SURE.
LOOK, HIDEKI REALLY IS COOL.
YES, YES.
WITH TIME COMES A SOLUTION
KOIKE TERUKO HAD TO FEAR BEING LEFT BEHIND.
THERE WERE MANY WHO PANICKED AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER ALREADY.
HEY, KOIKE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE LAST AGAIN
SO THOUGHT EVERYONE.


PUT YOUR PICTURES ON THE EASLES.
COME ON, KOIKE!
IT'S NOT DRY YET.
I'M SORRY, BUT TIME'S OVER.

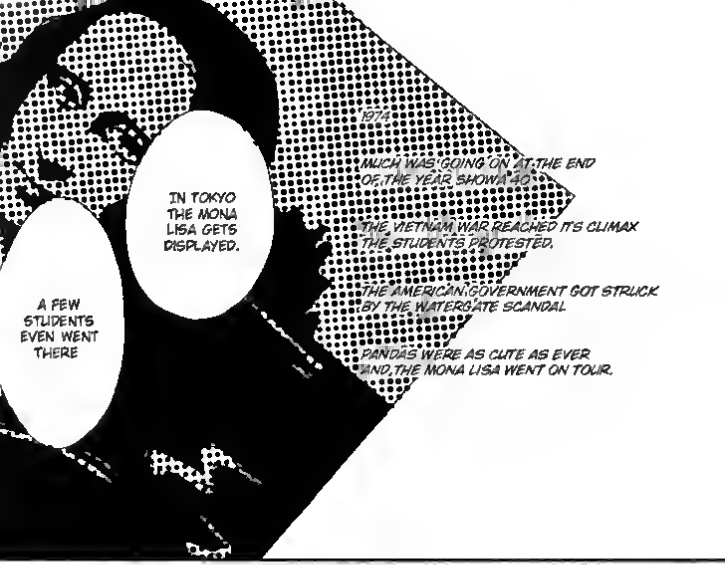
HUH?
WHAT'RE THESE STAINS?!
ARE THESE CHARACTERS?!
LOOKS LIKE JAPANESE.
AH, THEY'RE MIRRORED... OUT OF A NEWSPAPER.
INTERESTING.
WELL DONE! AND SUCH BALANCE...
EH?
WAS IT ON PURPOSE?

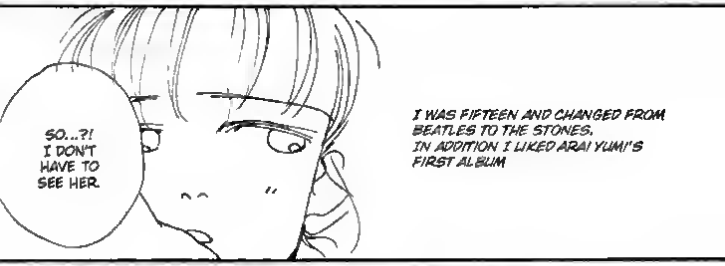

YOU COULD ALSO USE ENGLISH NEWS-PAPER.
THAT'S CALLED POP ART
EH...
DID YOU MAKE THIS ON PURPOSE?
YES!

SHE'S LYING.
AS IF THIS WAS INTENDED.. THAT WAS PURELY COINCIDENTIAL


MAYBE HIDDEN TALENTS SLEEP DEEP INSIDE HER
KOIKE DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT PAINTING
THAT WAS PURE LUCK.
DON'T TALK BULLSHIT
I SAW HOW SHE TOOK THE PICTURE HOME.
WHY? YOU DID GET AN A.
NOW WE LOOK PRETTY STUPID...
NOTHING TO SAY AGAINST IT, BUT...
YES, BUT KOIKE GOT AN A"
SHE FINISHED DRAWING IT LAST NIGHT AND IT WASN'T DRY YET. THAT'S WHY THE WRAPPING PAPER REMAINED STUCK.

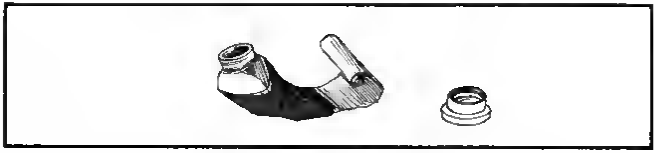
YOU ALWAYS HAVE AN A°...
IN PRACTICE SESSIONS THEY HAD THE FOLLOWING GRADES: A° WAS THE BEST GRADE, THEN A, A', A", FOLLOWED BY B, B', AND SO ON.
BUT I DIDN'T GET PRAISED
AT THAT TIME I THOUGHT (AND AKIHIKO DID TOO), THAT PRECISELY DRAWN PICTURES WERE THE HIGHEST ART.
WE BELIEVED THAT ONLY HIGH ART ARRIVES AT PEOPLE.
SEE! WE STRUGGLE SO MUCH, AND WHAT DO WE GET...?!
KOIKE HARVESTS THE ACKNOWL-EDGMENT
KOIKE'S PICTURE WASN'T PARTICULARLY ARTISTIC, BUT IT DREW THE MOST ATTENTION.
CERTAIN DOUBTS CAME TO ME
MAYBE THAT WAS OUR FIRST HURDLE

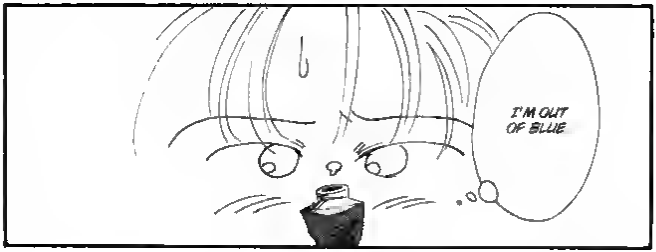

1974
MUCH WAS GOING ON AT THE END OF THE YEAR SHOWA 49
THE VIETNAM WAR REACHED ITS CLIMAX
THE STUDENTS PROTESTED.
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT GOT STRUCK BY THE WATERGATE SCANDAL
PANDAS WERE AS CUTE AS EVER
AND THE MONA LISA WENT ON TOUR.
IN TOKYO THE MONA LISA GETS DISPLAYED.
A FEW STUDENTS EVEN WENT THERE

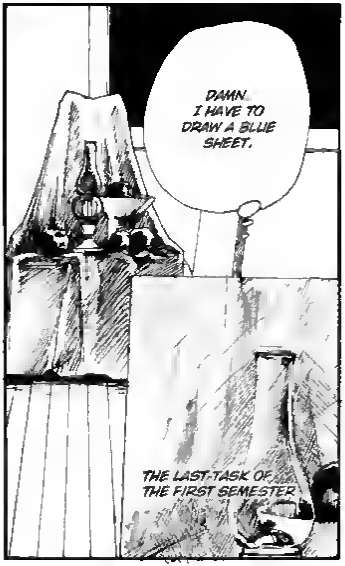

SO...?! I DON'T HAVE TO SEE HER
I WAS FIFTEEN AND CHANGED FROM BEATLES TO THE STONES.
IN ADDITION I LIKED ARAI YUMI'S FIRST ALBUM

WITH US IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT TOKYO, FASHION OR TELEVISION AND...
WELL, I WANT TO SEE HER FOR REAL ONCE

I LIKE MICHELANGELO BETTER.
ME TOO!
I DON'T LIKE THAT PICTURE
DA VINCI'S PICTURES ARE CREEPY.
WE WERE CRAZY ABOUT PICTURES
MICHEL-ANGELO IS GREAT.
SO ALIVE, RIGHT?!
WHY DOES FRANCE OWN THE MONA LISA? DA VINCI WAS ITALIAN!
NAPOLEON STOLE IT.







MAYBE I WAS IMAGINING IT, BUT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT ALL DEVELOPED FURTHER..

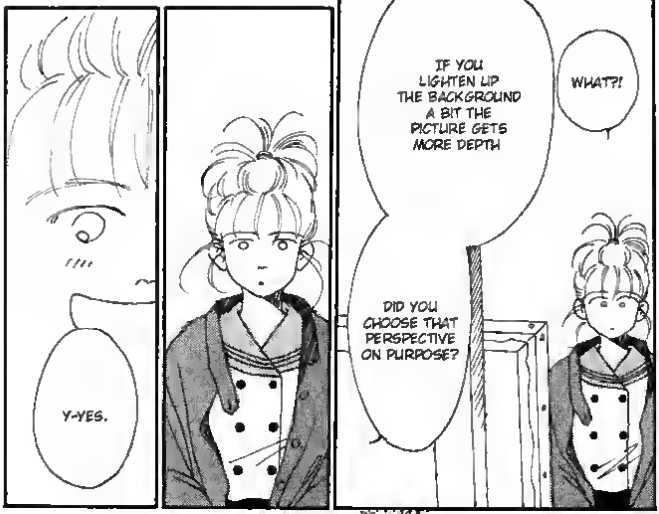
I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW...

COULD SOMEONE LEND ME THEIR BLUE?!

WELL, YOU WON'T GET MINE...
IF I GIVE YOU MINE I CAN'T CONTINUE DRAWING.
WHAT?! YOU'RE OUT OF BLUE?!
DON'T YOU HAVE EXTRA SUPPLIES? YOU HAVE TO MIX GREEN.
YOU HAVE ONE HOUR LEFT...
I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE..
AKIHIKO..
ALL FOCUSED ON THEIR PICTURES AGAIN.
BUT, AKIHIKO...

I FOCUSED ON MY PICTURE
DIP
FRANKLY, I WASN'T ANY DIFFERENT
I HAVE TO IMPROVISE .
PAT
PAT
PAT
EVERYBODY WANTED TO BE BETTER THAN THE OTHERS.
HAVE TO USE THE PAINT ECONOMICALLY..
FLAP
NAKATA WILL NOTICE INSTANTLY THAT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT..
OH MY ..
TIME'S UP

OBA, DID YOU MAKE THAT ON PURPOSE?!
WHAT?!
YOU LIGHTENED UP THE BLUE SHEET!
EH... WELL...
I HAD TO DILUTE THE PAINT...
VERY GOOD.

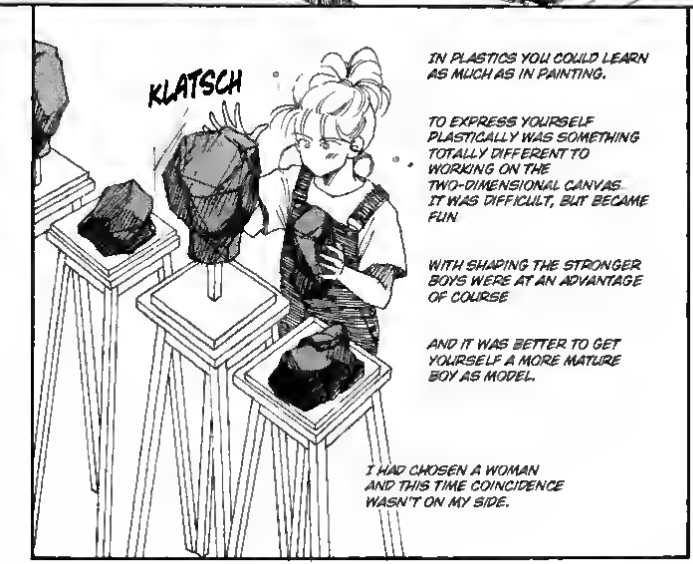

Y-YES.
IF YOU LIGHTEN UP THE BACKGROUND A BIT THE PICTURE GETS MORE DEPTH
DID YOU CHOOSE THAT PERSPECTIVE ON PURPOSE?
WHAT?!
THAT WAS MY FIRST A°.
THAT WAS A STRAIGHT LIE.

A GENIUS HAS 99 PERCENT TALENT AND 1 PERCENT DILIGENCE I THOUGHT, IN ART YOU'D NEED 1 PERCENT TALENT AND THE REMAINING 99 PERCENT ARE COINCIDENTAL.
ART MEANS IMPRO-VISING
JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PAINT!
OWW OWW

TSCHIK
ZIRP
ZIRP
AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK WE CHANGED TO PLASTICS
ZIRP
ZIRP
ZIRP
MAN, THE CLAY IS HARD!
MORE WATER.
AND IN THIS HEAT!
BY THE GROUP BEFORE US.
A FACE...
LOOK!

GOTAMA'S FACE IS ALL RED!
YEEES.
HI HI HI
SWIFFT
LIKE A DEATH MASK...
CREEPY...
HEY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WORK!
THE NOSE POINTS DOWN-WARDS.
THIS HEAT
"GOTAMA" IS CALLED GODA FOR REAL AND IS LECTURING PLASTICS.
On page 45 is a picture of Goda. Tell the rest!
HE HAS TO THANK OUR HISTORY BOOK FOR HIS NICKNAME "GOTAMA".
GOTAMA SIDDHARTA.
BUDDHA (GOTAMA SIDDHARTA)
OH?!

?
SINCE THEN WE FOLD OUR HANDS IF WE MEET HIM.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
BAM


KLATSCH
IN PLASTICS YOU COULD LEARN AS MUCH AS IN PAINTING.
TO EXPRESS YOURSELF PLASTICALLY WAS SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT TO WORKING ON THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL CANVAS. IT WAS DIFFICULT, BUT BECAME FUN
WITH SHAPING THE STRONGER BOYS WERE AT AN ADVANTAGE OF COURSE
AND IT WAS BETTER TO GET YOURSELF A MORE MATURE BOY AS MODEL.
I HAD CHOSEN A WOMAN AND THIS TIME COINCIDENCE WASN'T ON MY SIDE.

YOU HAVE TO CARRY THE CLAY BAGS INDIVIDUALLY THEN.
STUPID! GIRLS HAVE EXACTLY AS MUCH STRENGTH
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN GYM..
IN TWO, THREE YEARS YOU'LL GET IT..
HUH?!
WA HA HA
ART IS BASED ON MUSCLES
...
CAREFUL WORK..!
WHO MADE THIS STUPID THING?
THAT'S NO PLAY HOUR.

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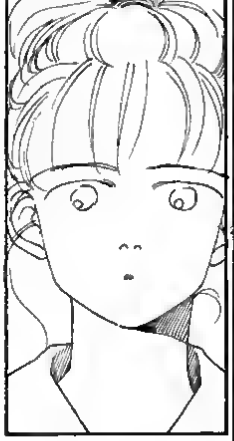
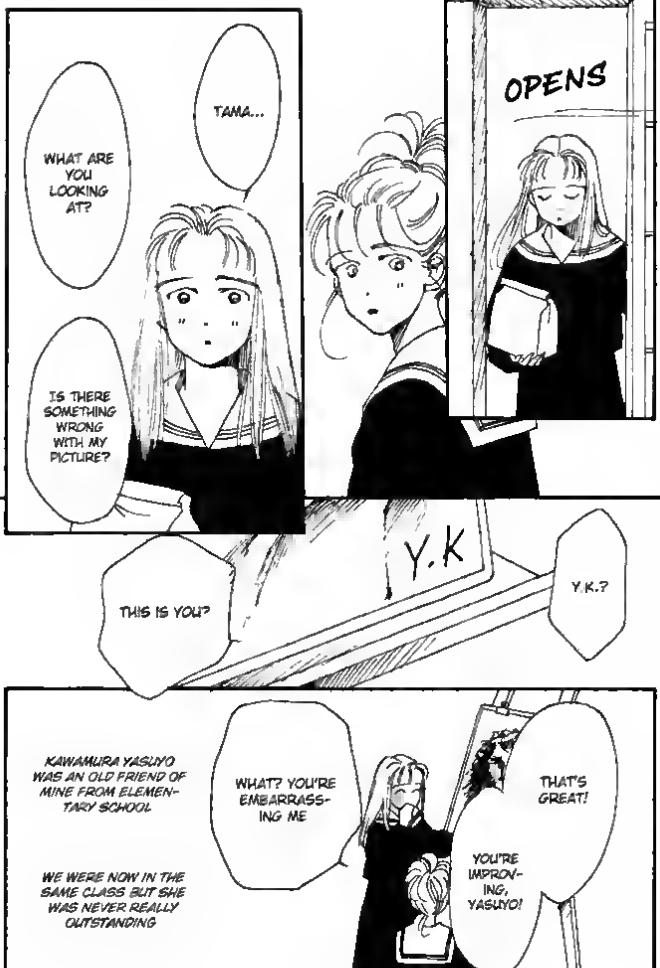


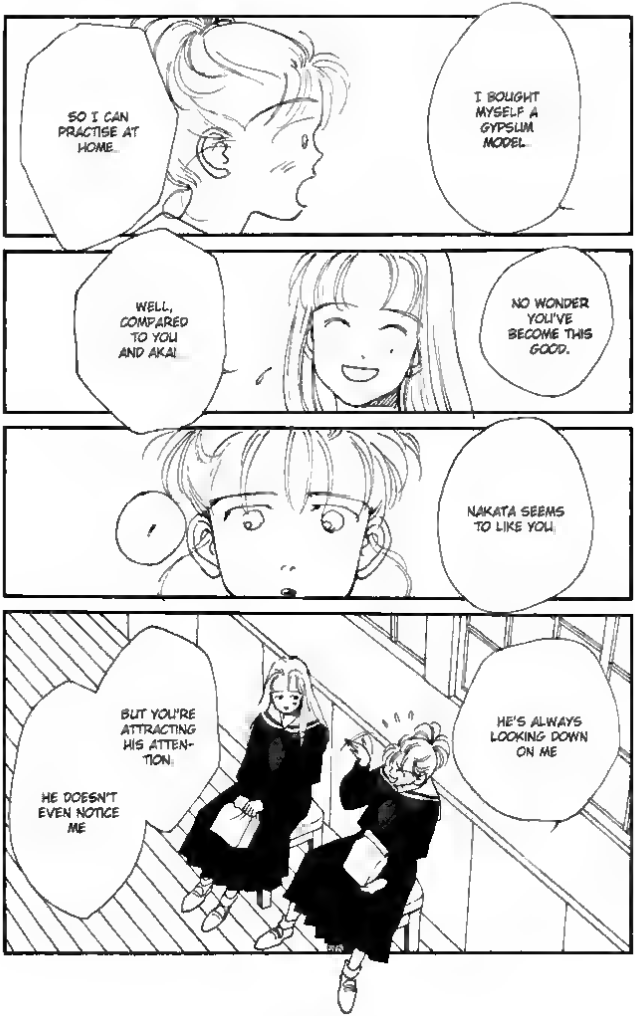
NOT BAD, THIS MEDICI

WHO IS Y.K.?

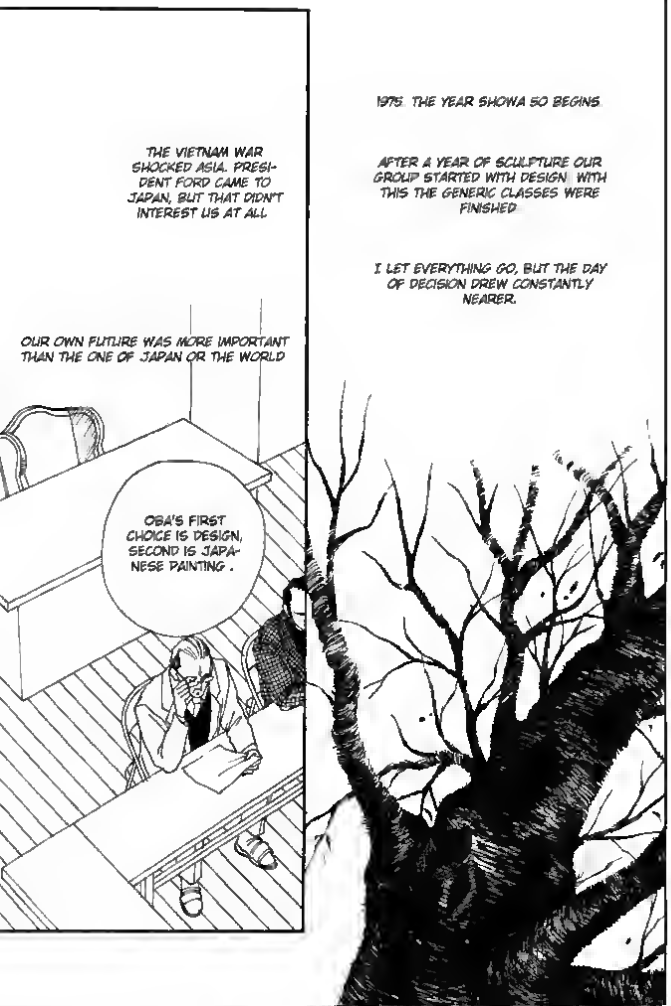
WINTER VACATION WAS SOON TO BEGIN

FOR A YEAR NOW THE LESSONS FOR MY CLASS TOOK PLACE IN THE SAME ROOM. THAT'S WHY WE WERE ALWAYS MEETING THERE

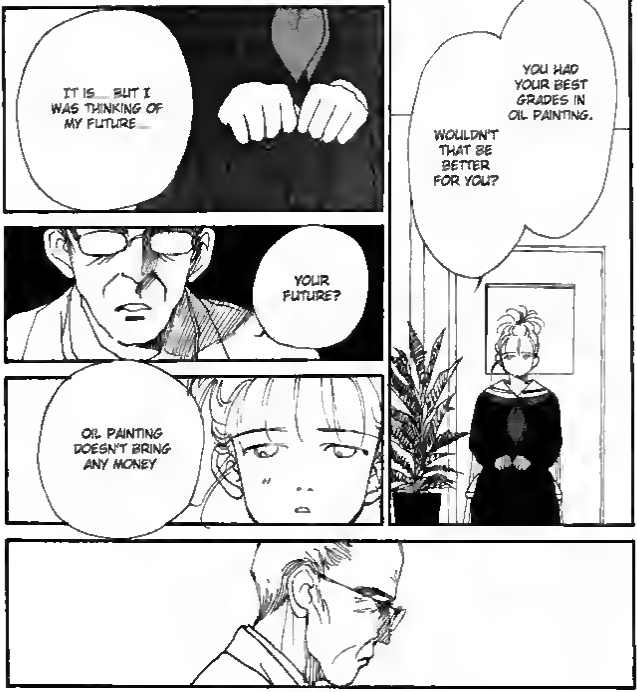

OPENS
TAMA...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY PICTURE?
Y.K
THIS IS YOU?
Y.K.?
KAWAMURA YASUYO WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WE WERE NOW IN THE SAME CLASS BUT SHE WAS NEVER REALLY OUTSTANDING
WHAT? YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME
THAT'S GREAT!
YOU'RE IMPROVING, YASUYO!


I BOUGHT MYSELF A GYPSUM MODEL.
SO I CAN PRACTISE AT HOME.
NO WONDER YOU'VE BECOME THIS GOOD.
WELL, COMPARED TO YOU AND AKAI.
NAKATA SEEMS TO LIKE YOU.
HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON ME
BUT YOU'RE ATTRACTING HIS ATTENTION.
HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE ME

I ENVY YOU
THAT'S WHY I BOUGHT THAT GYPSUM MODEL.
ADMIRABLE
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR PICTURE...
WHEN YOU SHOWED NAKATA YOUR STILL LIFE...
HE WAS COMPLETELY ENTHUSIASTIC. HE LIKES YOU.
I COULDN'T TELL HER.


1975. THE YEAR SHOWA 50 BEGINS.
AFTER A YEAR OF SCULPTURE OUR GROUP STARTED WITH DESIGN. WITH THIS THE GENERIC CLASSES WERE FINISHED.
I LET EVERYTHING GO, BUT THE DAY OF DECISION DREW CONSTANTLY NEARER.
THE VIETNAM WAR SHOCKED ASIA. PRESIDENT FORD CAME TO JAPAN, BUT THAT DIDN'T INTEREST US AT ALL.
OUR OWN FUTURE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ONE OF JAPAN OR THE WORLD
OBA'S FIRST CHOICE IS DESIGN, SECOND IS JAPANESE PAINTING.

ON THE ONE HAND I WAS GRATEFUL, ON THE OTHER I WASN'T.
FOR THE FIRST TIME I FELT PRESSURED.
I FELT STRANGE.
MIND SHARING WITH ME?!
MY PICTURE ANIMATED SOMEONE TO DRAW.
THAT A+ WAS JUST COINCIDENCE..
AREN'T YOU EATING TOO MUCH BREAD?!
DON'T YOU NEED IT FOR ERASING?!


IT IS... BUT I WAS THINKING OF MY FUTURE...
YOU HAD YOUR BEST GRADES IN OIL PAINTING.
WOULDN'T THAT BE BETTER FOR YOU?
YOUR FUTURE?
OIL PAINTING DOESN'T BRING ANY MONEY
"

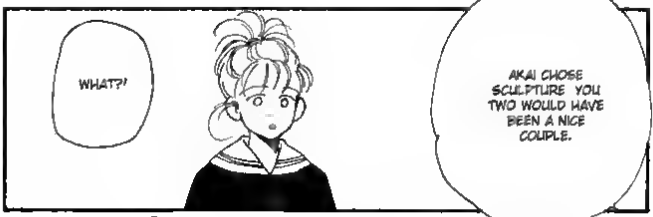
I DIDN'T WANT TO UPSET NAKATA, BUT I COULDN'T GET THIS "HE LIKES YOU" OUT OF MY MIND. I JUST COULDN'T.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO CONTINUE TO DO OIL PAINTINGS, BUT I WOULD'VE JUST WANTED TO PLEASE NAKATA ALL THE TIME.

I SEE TOO BAD .

YOU REALLY WERE SOMETHING IN FRONT OF NAKATA...
IT MAY SOUND EXAGGERATED, BUT... I WANTED TO BE FREE.
IN OIL PAINTING THERE WERE LOTS OF RULES AND STANDARDS
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD DO OIL PAINTING TOO
...
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING
I TOLD HIM THE STORY OF GOTAMA KOIKE'S MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEWSPAPER.
THE STORY SEEMED TO AMUSE HIM AND HE TOLD ME A LITTLE ANECDOTE TOO
A GALLERY OWNER LET HIS CHIMPANZEE PAINT AND THE JURY... WELL, WAS STUPIFIED
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH OIL PAINTINGS
IT HAPPENED ONE TIME THAT SOMEONE PAINTED THE PICTURE OF A MONKEY! THAT WAS SOMETHING!

THE VENUS OF MILO IS JUST FAMOUS BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY ARMS...
WELL OBSERVED.
PAM
BUT ISN'T IT THE SAME WITH SCULPTURE...
SINCE THAT DAY OIL PAINTING HAS A BAD REPUTATION.
SCULPTURE IS A LOT MORE EXPLICIT
DON'T YOU WANT TO JOIN SCULPTURE?!
I'M DOING DESIGN...
ONE DAY A GYPSED CANVAS SLIPPED FROM THE EASEL AND WON A PRIZE
REALLY?! TOO BAD..
WA HA HA

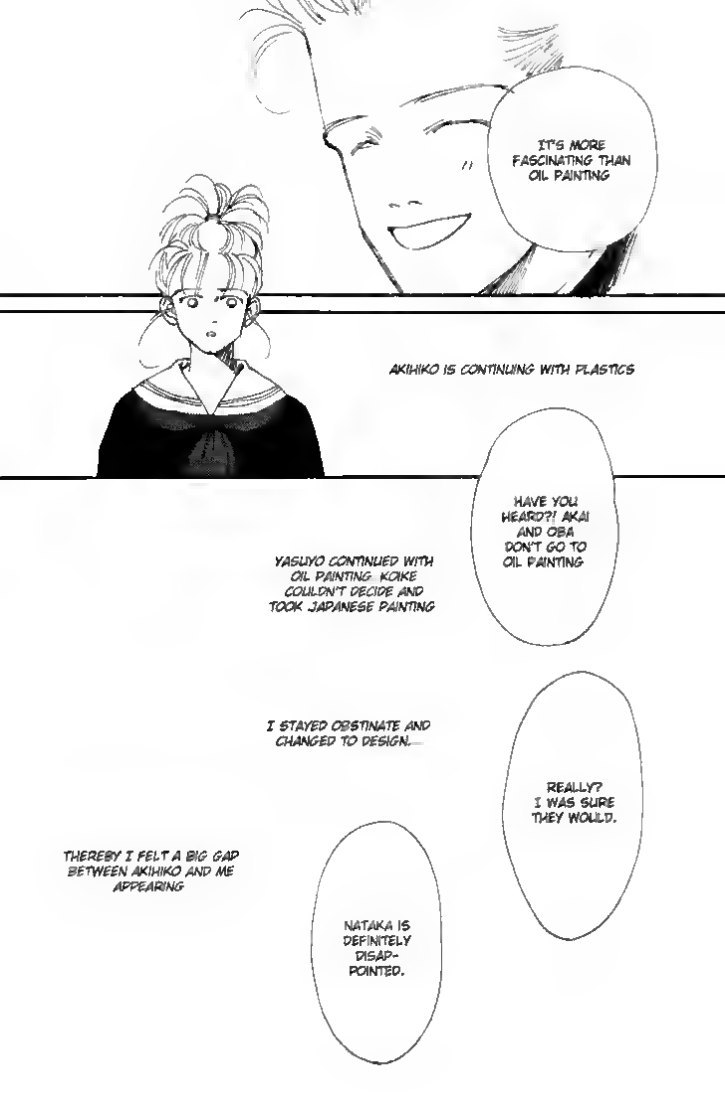


I WON'T JUST STOP WITH OIL PAINTING JUST BECAUSE KOIKE OR YOU STOP

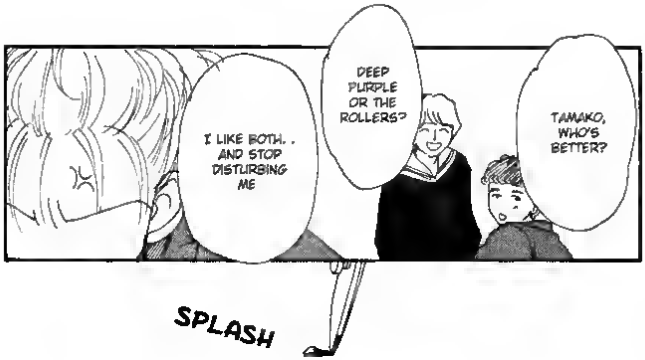
I HAVEN'T EXPECTED THIS.

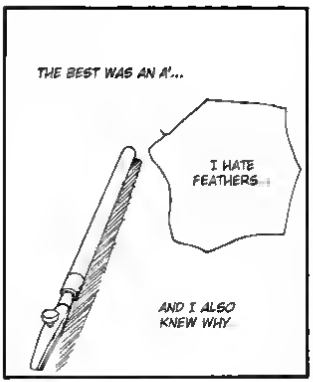
I WAS SURE HE'D DO OIL PAINTING

HE WAS NAKATA'S FAVOURITE, AFTER ALL. WHY...?!

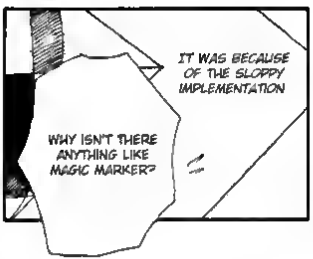

IT'S MORE FASCINATING THAN OIL PAINTING
AKIHIKO IS CONTINUING WITH PLASTICS
HAVE YOU HEARD?! AKAI AND OBA DON'T GO TO OIL PAINTING
YASUYO CONTINUED WITH OIL PAINTING. KOIKE COULDN'T DECIDE AND TOOK JAPANESE PAINTING
I STAYED OBSTINATE AND CHANGED TO DESIGN.
REALLY? I WAS SURE THEY WOULD.
THEREBY I FELT A BIG GAP BETWEEN AKIHIKO AND ME APPEARING
NATAKA IS DEFINITELY DISAP-POINTED.

AND I LIKE GUITARS! THAT'S WHY DEEP PURPLE IS MY NUMBER 1!
UGH — THESE LONG-HAIRED SAVAGES WITH THEIR ENDLESS SOLOS?
AND I COULDN'T ADVANCE.
APRIL 1975 ..
THE VIETNAM WAR WAS OVER. THE TELEVISION REPORTED DAILY ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS
INSTEAD OF FOLKSONGS WE LISTENED TO ROCK MUSIC
WE WERE IN OUR SECOND YEAR.
YOU LIKE BAY CITY ROLLERS IN THEIR WAY TOO SHORT PANTS?!
I LIKE CHECK-ERED PANTS.

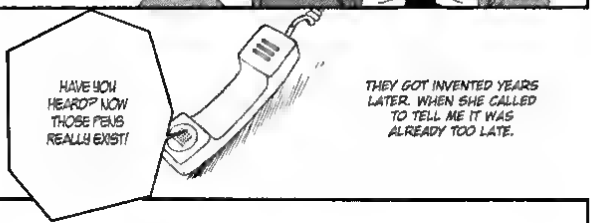

I LIKE BOTH. . AND STOP DISTURBING ME
DEEP PURPLE OR THE ROLLERS?
TAMAKO, WHO'S BETTER?
SPLASH

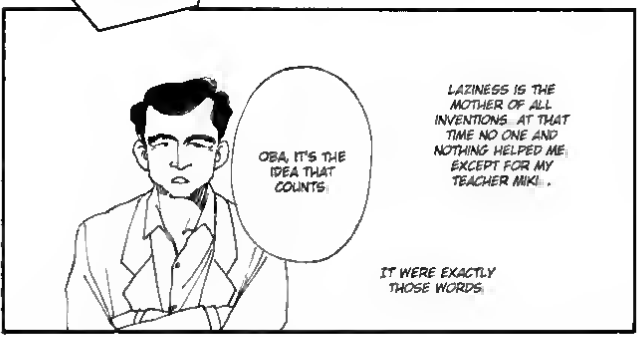

THE BEST WAS AN A'...
I HATE FEATHERS
AND I ALSO KNEW WHY

SINCE THE SECOND YEAR I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANOTHER A
AAH! NOT AGAIN!
SHE'S CONSTANTLY MESSING IT UP
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?


IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE SLOPPY IMPLEMENTATION
WHY ISN'T THERE ANYTHING LIKE MAGIC MARKER?

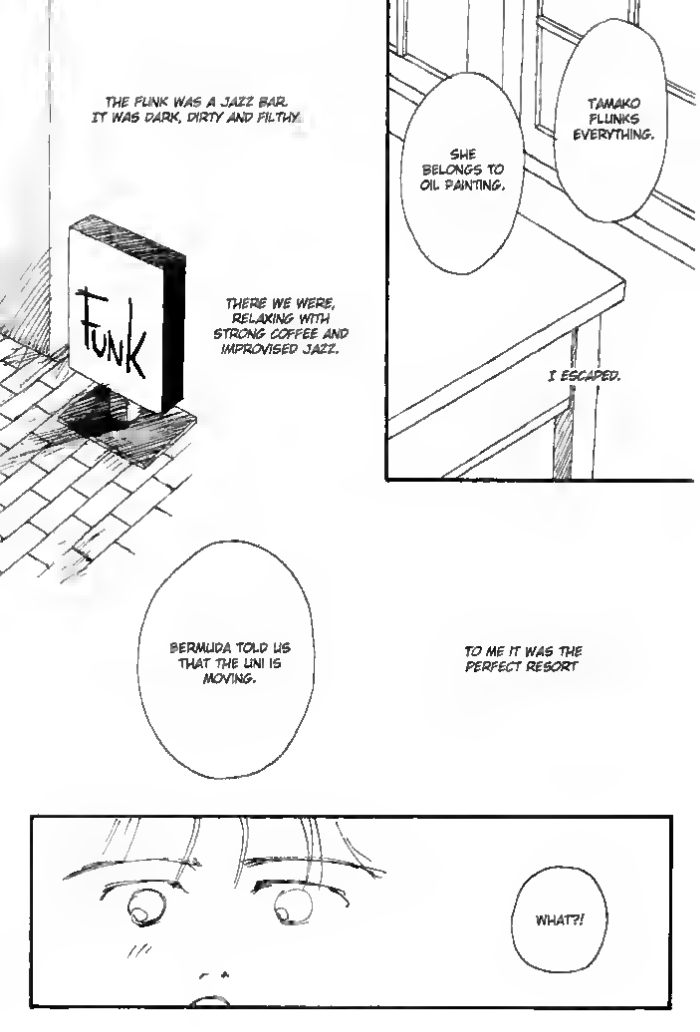
STOP DREAMING.
CONCENTRATE OR YOU WON'T FINISH AT ALL.
THEN I COULD FINISH WITHOUT FEATHERS AND GROOVES
IF THERE WOULD BE THICK AND THIN ONES OF THESE AVAILABLE I'D BUY THEM IMMEDIATELY
AT THAT TIME MAGIC MARKER DIDN'T EXIST

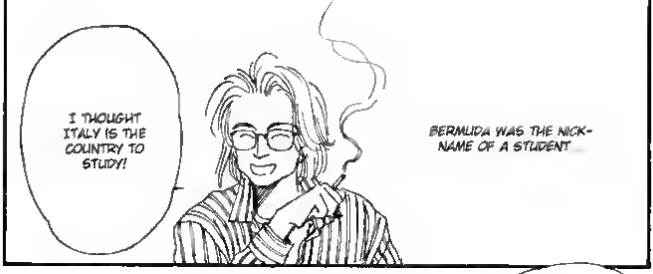

HAVE YOU HEARD? NOW THOSE PENS REALLY EXIST!
THEY GOT INVENTED YEARS LATER. WHEN SHE CALLED TO TELL ME IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.

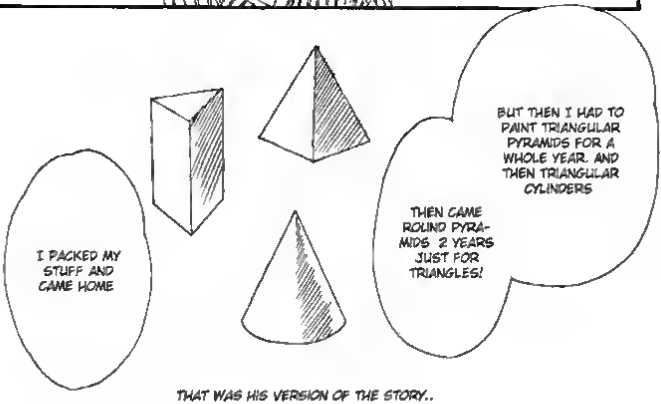

OBA, IT'S THE IDEA THAT COUNTS.
LAZINESS IS THE MOTHER OF ALL INVENTIONS. AT THAT TIME NO ONE AND NOTHING HELPED ME, EXCEPT FOR MY TEACHER MIKI.
IT WERE EXACTLY THOSE WORDS.

I REGRETTED TO HAVE CONTINUED WITH DESIGN

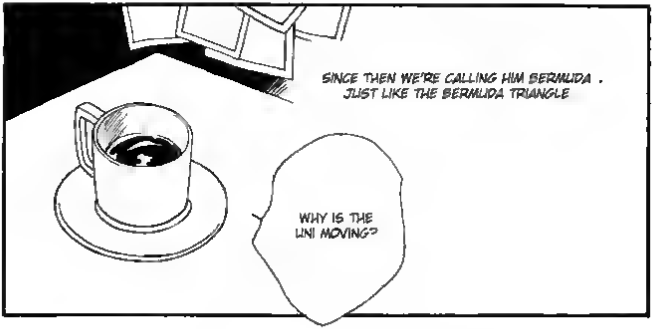
BUT THAT WASN'T MY ONLY PROBLEM
I DIDN'T ONLY HAD TO DRAW WITH CHARCOAL BUT WITH PENCIL TOO THAT REQUIRED HIGH EXACTITUDE.
UFF
I WAS IMPATIENT BY NATURE AND COULDN'T REALLY IMPROVE
I CAN'T ADVANCE ANYWAY
IF YOU CONTINUE LIKE THIS YOU WON'T BE FINISHED IN TIME
WE'RE GOING TO THE "FUNK". ARE YOU COMING ALONG?
YES, ONE SECOND

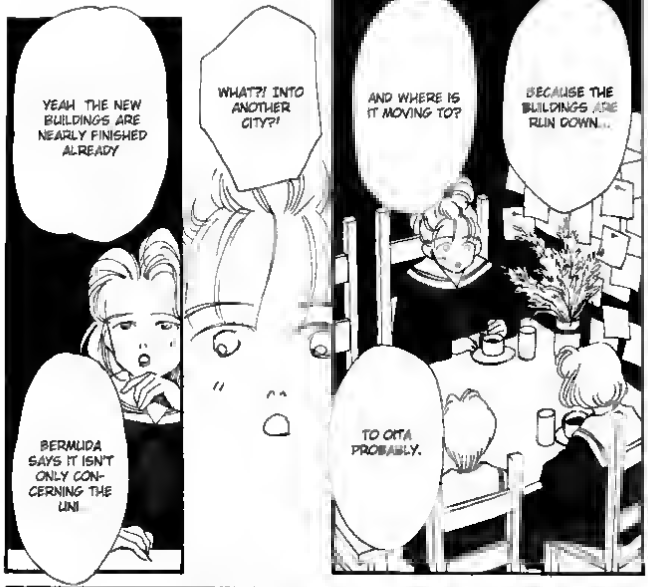

THE FUNK WAS A JAZZ BAR.
IT WAS DARK, DIRTY AND FILTHY.
FUNK
THERE WE WERE, RELAXING WITH STRONG COFFEE AND IMPROVISED JAZZ.
SHE BELONGS TO OIL PAINTING.
TAMAKO FLUNKS EVERYTHING.
I ESCAPED.
BERMUDA TOLD US THAT THE UNI IS MOVING.
TO ME IT WAS THE PERFECT RESORT
WHAT?!

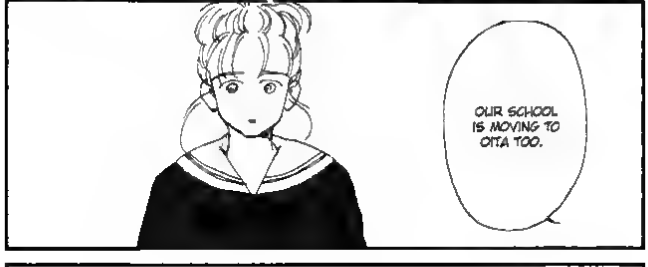



I PACKED MY STUFF AND CAME HOME
THEN CAME ROUND PYRA-MIDS 2 YEARS JUST FOR TRIANGLES!
BUT THEN I HAD TO PAINT TRIANGULAR PYRAMIDS FOR A WHOLE YEAR. AND THEN TRIANGULAR CYLINDERS

THAT WAS HIS VERSION OF THE STORY..



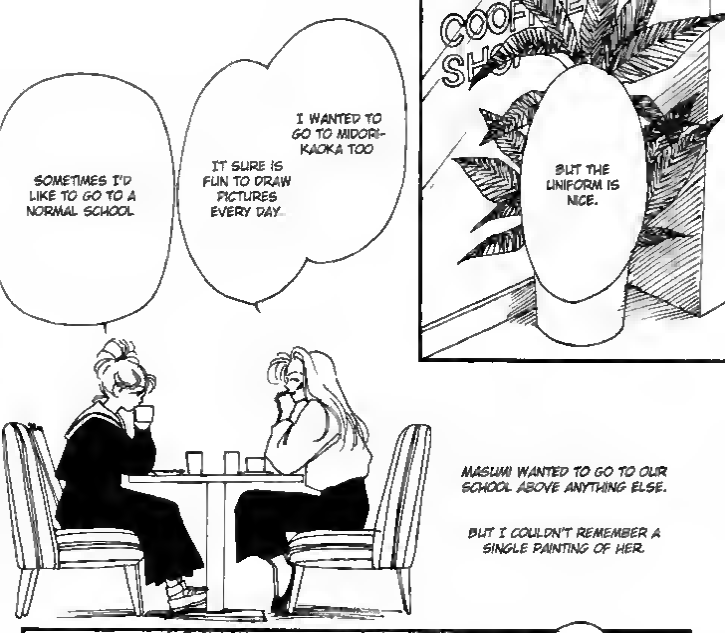

YEAH. THE NEW BUILDINGS ARE NEARLY FINISHED ALREADY
BERMUDA SAYS IT ISN'T ONLY CONCERNING THE UNI.
WHAT?! INTO ANOTHER CITY?!
AND WHERE IS IT MOVING TO?
TO OITA PROBABLY.
BECAUSE THE BUILDINGS ARE RUN DOWN...



BERMUDA WAS RIGHT...

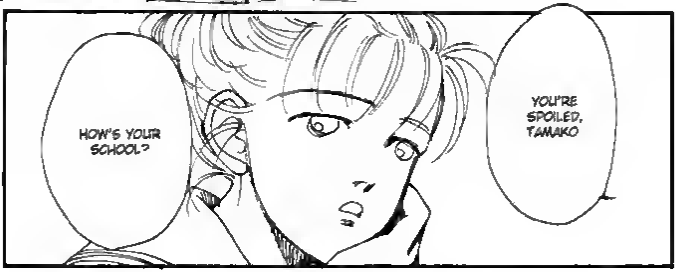
IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS THEY CALLED OUR SCHOOL A FLEA CIRCUS
BUT NOT ONLY FLEAS TIME ALSO HAD LEFT ITS SCARS ON THE TWO-STORIED WOODEN BUILDINGS. THEY DIDN'T FIT INTO A MODERN WORLD. BUT WE LIKED THEM.
THIS SUMMER THE FLEAS WERE ANNOYING US, AND WHEN A STUDENT FELL ASLEEP DURING WINTER THE TEACHER SCREAMED "PAY ATTENTION NOT TO FREEZE TO DEATH!" IT WAS HARD
BUT WE STILL LOVED OUR SCHOOL
TAMAKO?!
?
LONG TIME NO SEE

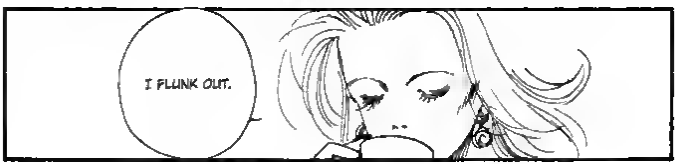
MASUMI?!
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED
AND YOU'RE STILL THE OLD ONE
EH?
IT'S ME... I MA - SU - MI
MASUMI WAS AN OLD SCHOOL FRIEND OF YASUYO AT THAT TIME SHE DIDN'T MADE IT THROUGH THE ENTRANCE EXAM.
I THOUGHT THIS IS A TOPKNOT.
MY PONY-TAIL?
YOUR HAIRSTYLE IS AWFUL


SOMETIMES I'D LIKE TO GO TO A NORMAL SCHOOL
I WANTED TO GO TO MIDORI-KAOKA TOO
IT SURE IS FUN TO DRAW PICTURES EVERY DAY
BUT THE UNIFORM IS NICE.

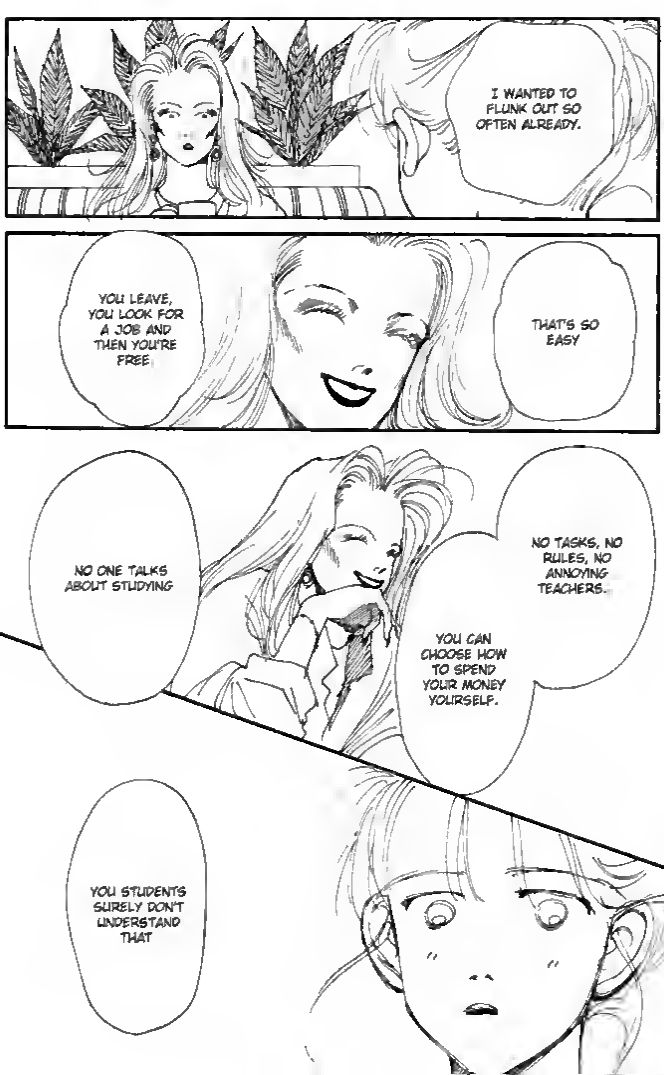
MASUMI WANTED TO GO TO OUR SCHOOL ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE.

BUT I COULDN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE PAINTING OF HER.





NOW I'M WORKING IN A SHOP
BE SURE TO COME OVER!
KOIKE IS ALSO GOING TO YOUR SCHOOL, ISN'T SHE?
WHAT?!
IT WAS TOO BORING SO I LEFT
IT WASN'T MY THING ANYWAY.
REALLY. .?
SHE BUYS STUFF AT OUR SHOP REGULARILY.
THAT'S BECAUSE KOIKE'S TEACHER WAS ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT HER.
SHE GOT INTO A QUARREL WITH HIM BECAUSE SHE SUPPOSEDLY LET SOMEONE ELSE DRAW HER PAINTINGS NOW SHE'S CONSTANTLY SICK
SHE ALSO SAID...
THAT IT'S NO FUN FOR HER.

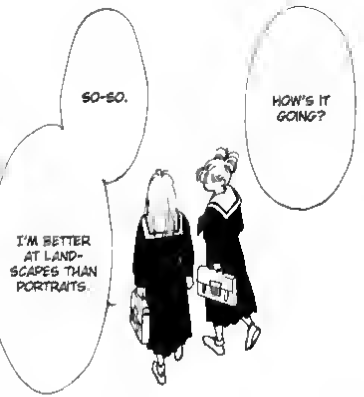

I WANTED TO FLUNK OUT SO OFTEN ALREADY.
YOU LEAVE, YOU LOOK FOR A JOB AND THEN YOU'RE FREE.
THAT'S SO EASY
NO ONE TALKS ABOUT STUDYING
NO TASKS, NO RULES, NO ANNOYING TEACHERS.
YOU CAN CHOOSE HOW TO SPEND YOUR MONEY YOURSELF.
YOU STUDENTS SURELY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT

IT'S OKAY!
WHAT?! BUT.
IT'S OKAY, I'M WORKING AFTER ALL
I'M PAYING.
TH... THANKS.
INCREDIBLE.
SHE HAD MATURED
I WAS PRESSURED.

KLONK
IT'S NOT COMING OUT
BUT I CAN'T GET A GOOD CONCEPT
WE HAVE TO BUILD A RELIEF.
BUT SOME OF THE PARTS ARE ALREADY FINISHED
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
MY TALENT IS CLAMP-ING

I KNOW...
YEAH, BUT WHO CARES?!
IF YOU DON'T TURN IT IN PUNCTUALLY YOUR GRADES WILL GO DOWN
I SEE YOUR POINT...
I DON'T HAVE ANY STYLE...
EVERYONE IS DOING SOMETHING ELSE OUT OF THE SAME MODEL...
THE PROBLEM OF DESIGN IS THE OWN STYLE
WE'RE JUST HUMAN AFTER ALL...
JUST DO LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...
BUT THAT'S BORING...
EVERYONE DOES THE SAME

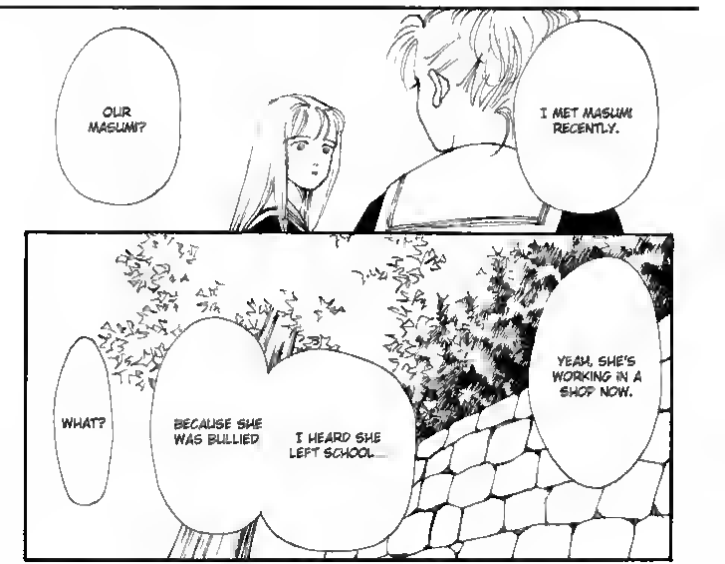
OH
DON'T SAY THAT.
HELLO.
...
HEY YASUYO!
YASUYO!
I DON'T ADVANCE ANYWAY
SO I CAN LEAVE JUST AS WELL...
AND YOUR HOMEWORK?
I'LL DO IT TOMOR-ROW.
SHE HAS NO PATIENCE AND IS NOT THINK-ING AT ALL...
WAIT A MOMENT!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!

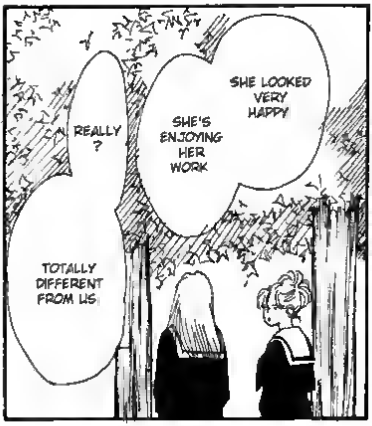


WHAT I LACKED IN STYLE I TRIED TO FIX WITH THOUGHTLESSNESS

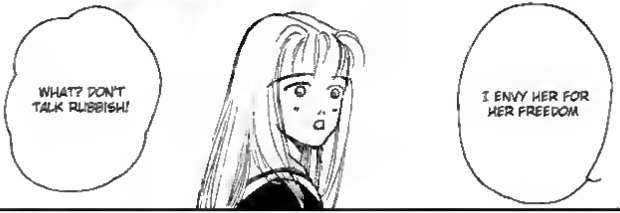
I BELIEVED THE NEXT DAY WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING

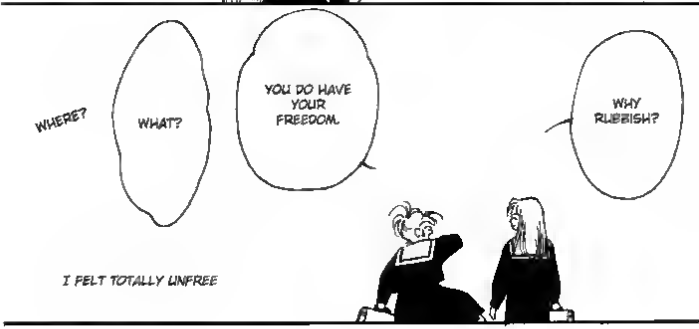
UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING EVER CHANGED. BUT WHO CARES...?!

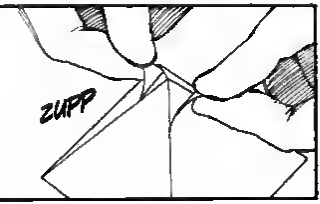



REALLY ?
SHE'S ENJOYING HER WORK
SHE LOOKED VERY HAPPY
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM US

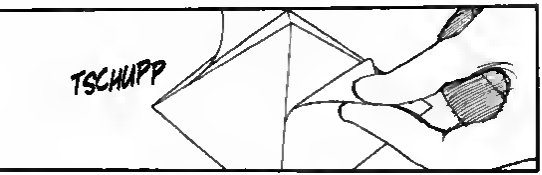
OF COURSE NOT WHO WOULD TELL SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT.

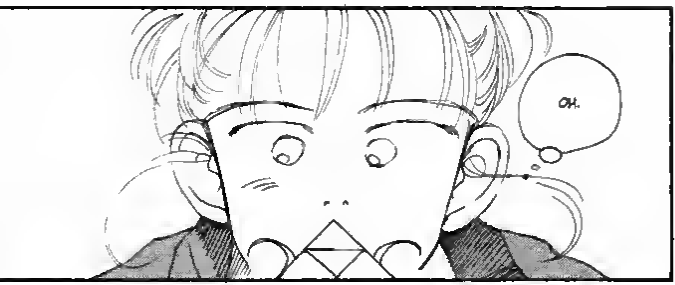

WHAT? DON'T TALK RUBBISH!
I ENVY HER FOR HER FREEDOM

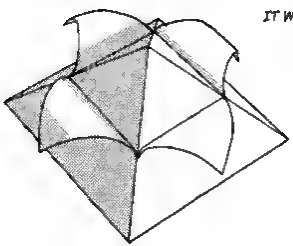

WHERE?
WHAT?
YOU DO HAVE YOUR FREEDOM.
WHY RUBBISH?
I FELT TOTALLY UNFREE



I DON'T KNOW HOW THE OTHERS THOUGHT ABOUT IT BUT COMPARED TO US, MASUMI LOOKED TOTALLY INDEPENDENT





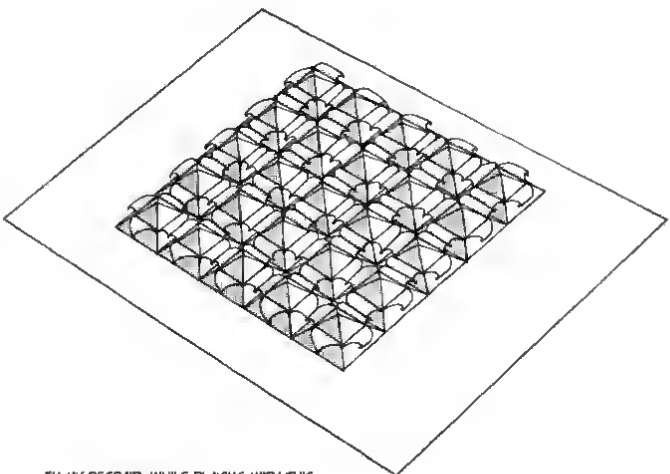


IT WAS PURE COINCIDENCE

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT PAPER PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW THAT YOU CAN MAKE STANDING FIGURES OUT OF SO-CALLED "KENT PAPER"

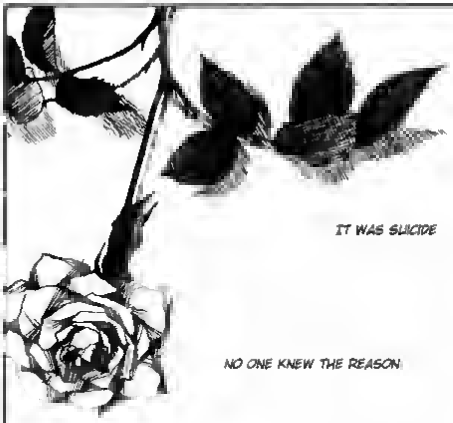
I JUST FIGURED OUT THAT TIME THAT IT IS MADE OUT OF LOT OF LAYERS THAT YOU CAN PULL UP LIKE AN ONION.

I ARRANGED THESE PARTS THAT LOOKED LIKE SACKETS SO THAT IT BECAME A NICE PICTURE. AND I TURNED IT IN LIKE THAT. TO MY SURPRISE I GOT AN A+ AND PRAISE



IN MY DESPAIR, WHILE PLAYING WITH THIS KENT PAPER, I CAME UP WITH A GOOD IDEA.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ?
HA HA
ART IS A GAME
Shakes
THAT'S KINDA WORK TOO.
THIS IS UNFAIR, TAMAKO
YOU HAVE FUN AND STILL GET AN A°
MASUMI IS DEAD.
HUH?
TAMAKO
WHY ARE YOU ALL CRYING?!

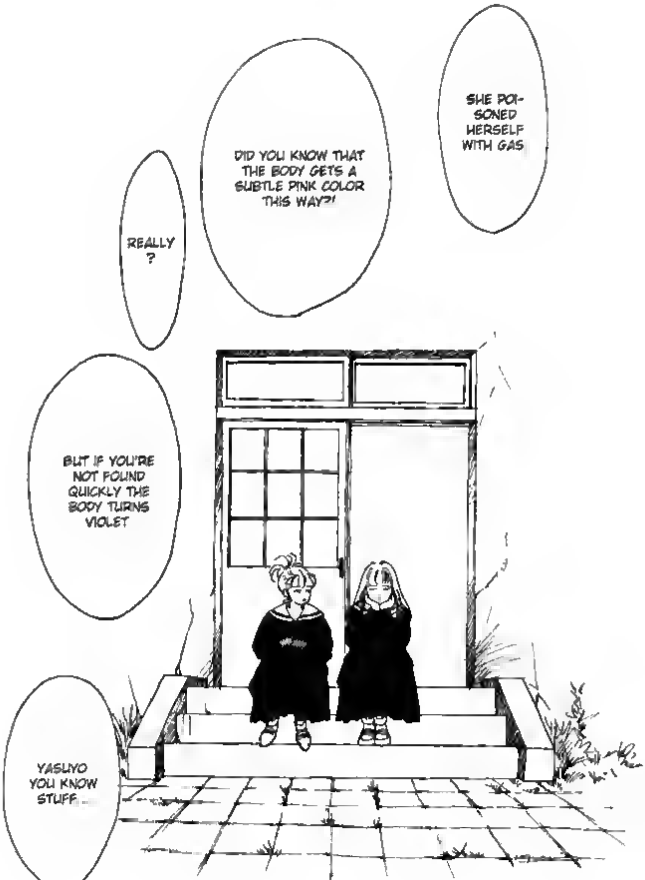


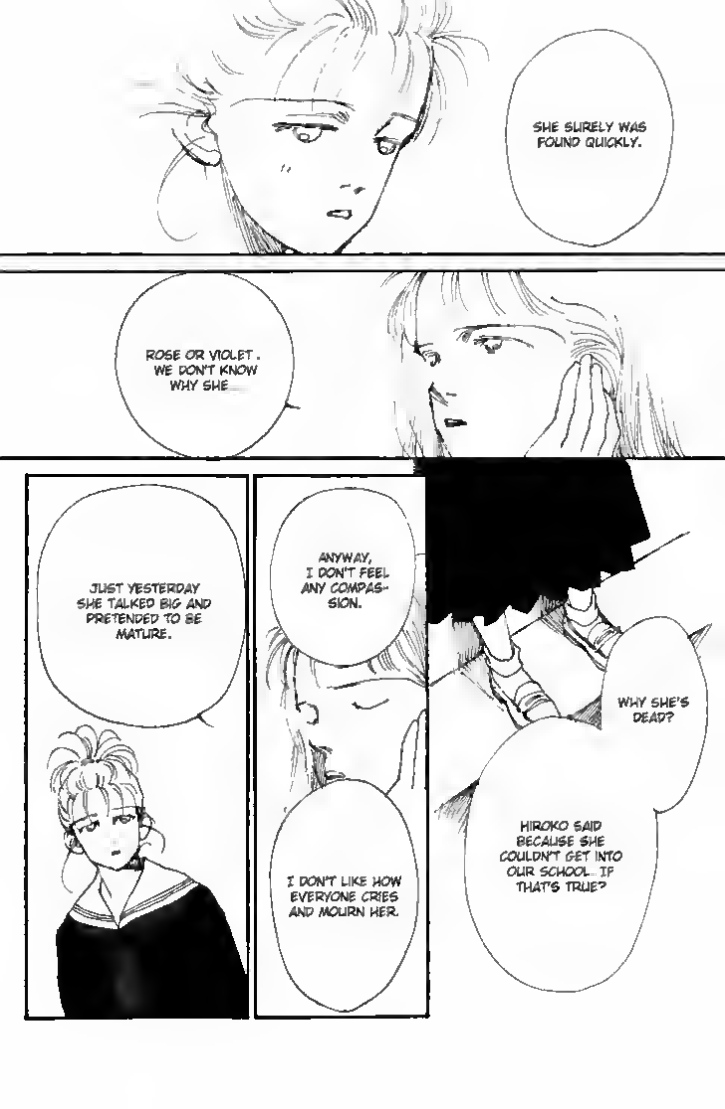
IT WAS SUICIDE

NO ONE KNEW THE REASON

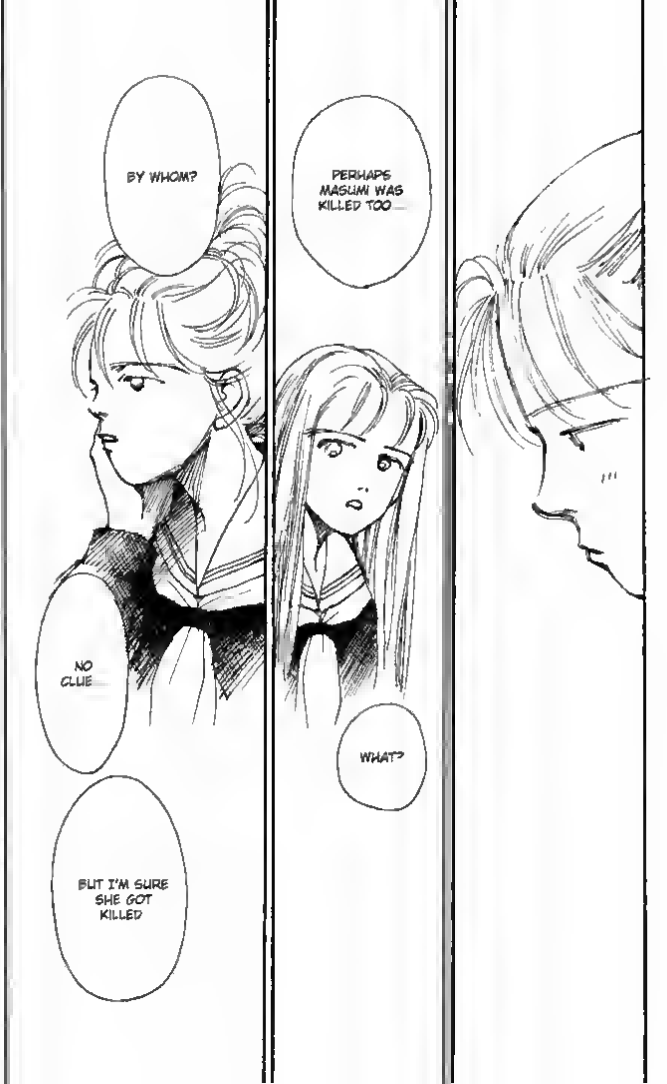
AT THAT TIME TANAKO ETSUKO'S SONG "ZERO POINT TWENTY" WAS VERY POPULAR AMONG TEENAGERS.

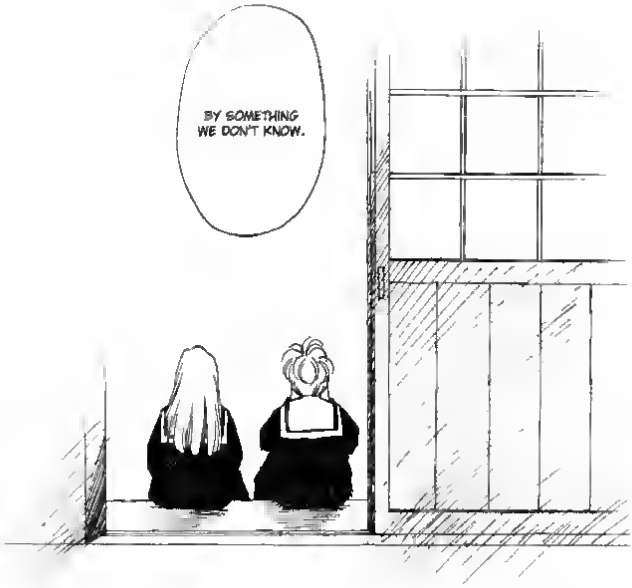
THE TIMING WAS PERFECT, SO THE SHOCK WAS EVEN GREATER THAN THE SORROW


SHE POI-
SONED
HERSELF
WITH GAS
DID YOU KNOW THAT
THE BODY GETS A
SUBTLE PINK COLOR
THIS WAY?!
REALLY
?
BUT IF YOU'RE
NOT FOUND
QUICKLY THE
BODY TURNS
VIOLET
YASUYO
YOU KNOW
STUFF...


SHE SURELY WAS FOUND QUICKLY.
ROSE OR VIOLET. WE DON'T KNOW WHY SHE...
WHY SHE'S DEAD?
HIROKO SAID BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T GET INTO OUR SCHOOL... IF THAT'S TRUE?
ANYWAY, I DON'T FEEL ANY COMPASSION.
I DON'T LIKE HOW EVERYONE CRIES AND MOURN HER.
JUST YESTERDAY SHE TALKED BIG AND PRETENDED TO BE MATURE.

ALL OF THEM ARE ONLY PITYING THEMSELVES
BECAUSE THE SCHOOL MAKES THEM SICK...
YOU'RE QUITE HARD.
I THINK SUICIDE IS COWARDLY.
IN VIETNAM PEOPLE GOT KILLED EVERY DAY.
BUT NONE OF THEM WOULD'VE TAKEN THEIR OWN LIFE.


BY WHOM?
NO CLUE...
BUT I'M SURE SHE GOT KILLED
PERHAPS MASUMI WAS KILLED TOO...
WHAT?
!!!



IN THAT YEAR WE STARTED WITH OUR THIRD YEAR

An
Afternoon Illusions
Project
a-illusions.kakyoku.org
illusionary-noodles@orchestrany.net

FUYUMI SORYO

SEE YOU IN EDEN

Scans: Cleo
Translation & Editing: Rion & KingFish
QC: KingFish & akikaze

EVERYONE WAS SILENT.
THE EXAMS WERE RIGHT BEFORE US
THE RELAXED AND HARMONIC ATMOSPHERE OF LAST YEAR WAS GONE.
WE WERE RIVALS

WE HAD A 50-50 CHANCE.
IN EVERY SUBJECT WE PLAYED "MUSICAL CHAIRS"
THE MOOD BECOMES MORE AND MORE DEPRESSING EVERYDAY.
THOSE OIL PAINTINGS MAKE ME NERVOUS
THE EXAMS WILL BE SOON, AND THEN...
WHO ARE YOU PAINTING?
BRUTUS.
OH, YOU'RE LUCKY!
WE'RE DOING PAJANTO. SHE HAS SO MUCH HAIR. SO ANNOYING!

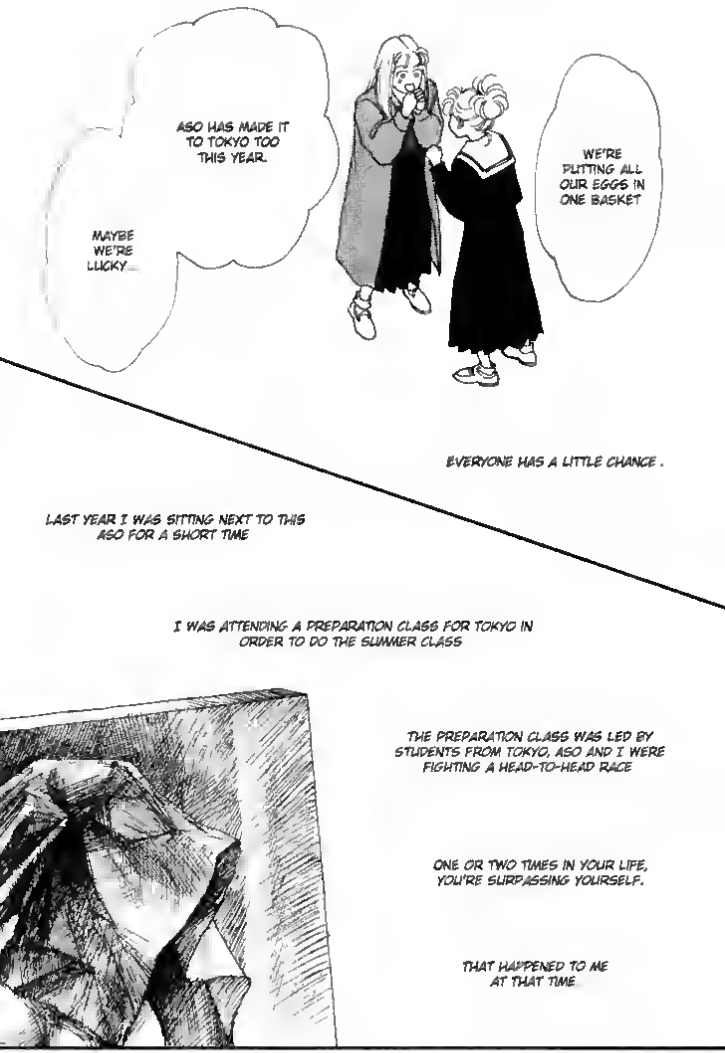
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WELL...
BUT THE ONE WHO'S ABLE TO DO PAJANTO AND MOLIERE WELL, HAS NEARLY WON
I'M SURE THE EXAMS ARE VERY DIFFERENT
ARE YOU ALREADY THINKING ABOUT THE EXAMS?
WELL...
DO YOU KNOW ALREADY WHAT YOU'LL DO?
YEAH
I'M APPLYING FOR A UNIVERSITY SOMEWHERE ELSE

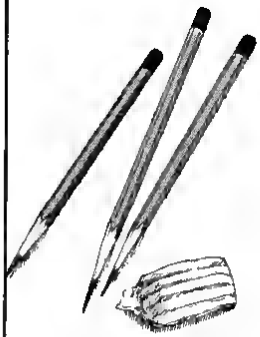
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PLANS AT ALL?
YOU ALREADY HAVE A PLAN..
YOU CAN ONLY STUDY HERE FOR 2 YEARS, BUT I WANT 4 YEARS.
THAT'S WHY I'M STUDYING ART HISTORY SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WHAT?
WELL .. I WANT TO GO ..
TO AN ART ACADEMY IN TOKYO
REALLY?

YOU'RE CRAZY.
THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS IS A LOT HIGHER THAN THE NUMBER OF FREE PLACES ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT DO YOUR DESIGN PROFESSORS THINK ABOUT THAT?
THAT IT'S INCONSID-ERATE
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING
I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THAT
IT'S NOT JUST SOME CRAZINESS.

SLOWLY THE HARSH REALITY TOOK POSSESSION OF OUR IDYLLIC EXISTENCE.
ART IS ONLY OPENING DOORS FOR FEW. VERY FEW OF US FOUND AN ART-RELATED JOB AFTER UNIVERSITY.
ONE DAY WE ALL HAVE TO START WORKING
I DON'T WANT TO STUDY IN SOME EXPENSIVE UNIVERSITY TO END UP ON THE STREET.
AS AN ART TEACHER YOU COULD STILL KEEP YOUR FACE. BUT THE JOBS WERE RARE AND THE WAITING LISTS LONG
AND I COULD TEACH DRAWING, OR SOMETHING.
ONE COULD LIVE FROM HIS ART
ONE WHO WAS IN TOKYO, CAN SURELY GET A JOB.
SO. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT!?
SO...!?
DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY IT TOO!?
WITH YOUR TALENT IT WILL WORK OUT!
EVERYONE CAN APPLY.
IT'S SETTLED! WE'RE GOING TO TOKYO
WELL, OKAY...
LET'S TRY.

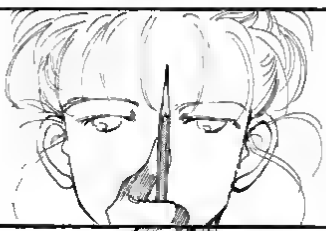

ASO HAS MADE IT TO TOKYO TOO THIS YEAR.
MAYBE WE'RE LUCKY...
WE'RE PUTTING ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET
EVERYONE HAS A LITTLE CHANCE.
LAST YEAR I WAS SITTING NEXT TO THIS ASO FOR A SHORT TIME
I WAS ATTENDING A PREPARATION CLASS FOR TOKYO IN ORDER TO DO THE SUMMER CLASS
THE PREPARATION CLASS WAS LED BY STUDENTS FROM TOKYO, ASO AND I WERE FIGHTING A HEAD-TO-HEAD RACE
ONE OR TWO TIMES IN YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE SURPASSING YOURSELF.
THAT HAPPENED TO ME AT THAT TIME



I HAD THE IMPRESSION EVERY DOOR WAS OPEN FOR ME

IF I JUST WANTED TO I COULD BECOME EVERYTHING

EVEN PICASSO OR VAN GOGH



MY EYES WERE LIKE CAMERA LENSES

AND REPRODUCE IT

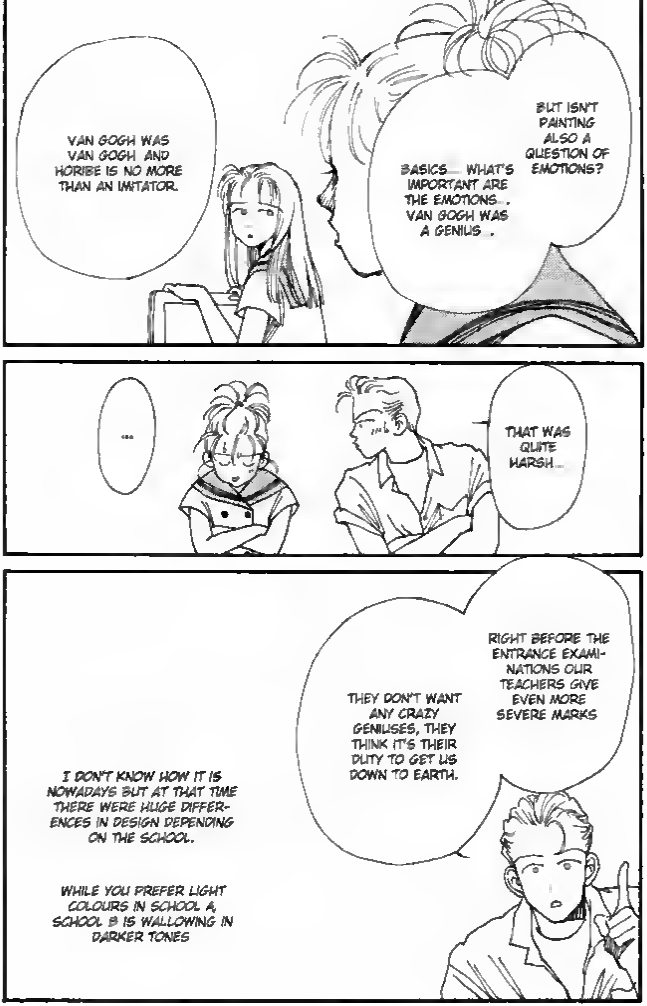
I COULD MEMORIZE EVERYTHING I SAW...

WITHOUT ANY DIFFERENCE

Chirp
Chirp
THE RUMOR EVEN SPREAD TO THE PLASTICS CLASS?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TO TOKYO?
SO YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT? AMONG EVERYONE, THERE'S ONLY YOU AND YASUYO WANTING TO GO TO TOKYO
Chirp
Chirp
I THINK THE HEAD IS A LITTLE BIT LEANING.
AKIHIKO

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE'S OWN PLASTICS AND DRAWINGS SOMEHOW ALWAYS LOOK LIKE ONESELF?
OH NO, ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
YOU OBVI-OUSLY THINK I WENT INSANE.
THAT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE FIRST THINKS ABOUT THEMSELVES
YOU THINK I'M ARROGANT?
ALL PEOPLE ARE ARROGANT.
Hey, wait!
ARROGANCE CAN ALSO BE VERY CHARMING.
BUT TOKYO HAS A GOOD REPUTATION AND I WANT TO LEARN MUCH MORE...

OH, THE PEOPLE FROM THE OIL PAINTINGS CLASS
YASUYO!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU ALL LOOK SO DEPRESSED.
WE GOT OUR MARKS TODAY.
NAKATA DIDN'T SPARE WITH CRITICS
WHAT?
HORIBE EVEN GOT A B
WHAT?
BUT HORIBE IS SO SKILLED WITH COLOURS
NEARLY LIKE THE GREAT IMPRES-SIONISTS
NAKATA SAYS HE'S LACKING THE BASICS HIS STUFF ARE NOT MORE THAN SENTIMENTALISM AND NO PAINTING

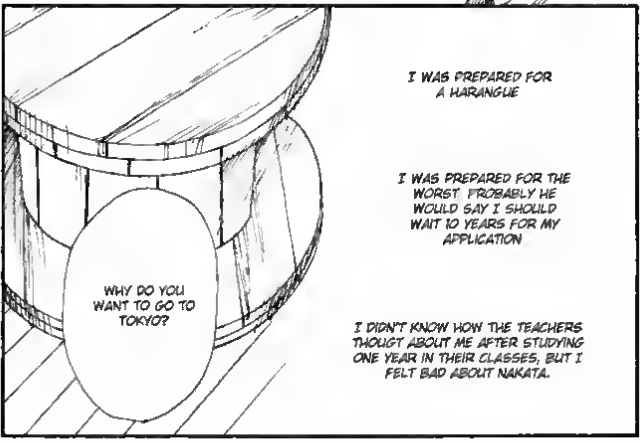

VAN GOGH WAS VAN GOGH AND HORIBE IS NO MORE THAN AN IMITATOR.
BASICS— WHAT'S IMPORTANT ARE THE EMOTIONS.. VAN GOGH WAS A GENIUS .
BUT ISN'T PAINTING ALSO A QUESTION OF EMOTIONS?
...
THAT WAS QUITE HARSH...
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS NOWADAYS BUT AT THAT TIME THERE WERE HUGE DIFFERENCES IN DESIGN DEPENDING ON THE SCHOOL.
WHILE YOU PREFER LIGHT COLOURS IN SCHOOL A, SCHOOL B IS WALLOWING IN DARKER TONES
THEY DON'T WANT ANY CRAZY GENIUSES, THEY THINK IT'S THEIR DUTY TO GET US DOWN TO EARTH.
RIGHT BEFORE THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS OUR TEACHERS GIVE EVEN MORE SEVERE MARKS

THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS WERE DOMINATING THE SECOND SEMESTER OF OUR THIRD SCHOOL-YEAR.
ALL PUPILS HAD THEIR PREFERRED UNIVERSITIES AND TRIED TO IMPROVE THEIR BRUSH STROKES
I WAS ALSO KEEN TO IMPROVE, BUT MY TECHNIQUE DIDN'T CHANGE.
OH NO, NAKATA.
BLUSH
OBA.
DON'T LOOK..

HMM, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
HOW IS IT GOING IN THE DESIGN CLASS?

DAMN!
I HEARD YOU WANT TO GO TO TOKYO. .

UH-OH
COME WITH ME TO THE STAFF'S ROOM.

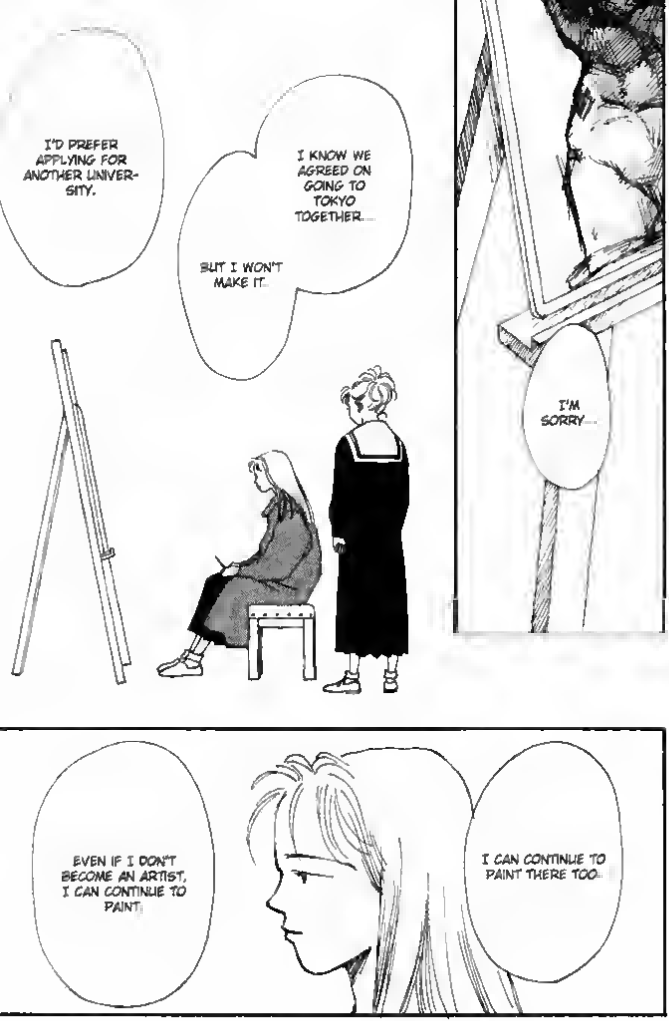

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO TOKYO?
I WAS PREPARED FOR A HARANGUE
I WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST PROBABLY HE WOULD SAY I SHOULD WAIT 10 YEARS FOR MY APPLICATION
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW THE TEACHERS THOUGT ABOUT ME AFTER STUDYING ONE YEAR IN THEIR CLASSES, BUT I FELT BAD ABOUT NAKATA.

I WANT TO LIVE FROM MY PAINTINGS ONE DAY.
AH...
AND YOU THINK IF YOU GO TO TOKYO, YOU CAN DO THAT?
WELL, IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND A JOB FOR STUDENTS OF A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY.
AND YOU HAVE TO WAIT AN ETERNITY TO GET A JOB AS TEACHER. .
SO THE MONEY FOR A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IS PRACTICALLY WASTED.
THERE'S ONLY TOKYO LEFT....
YOU THINK IT'S WRONG TO THINK SO?

REALLY?
I WAS JUST INTERESTED IN WHY YOU WANT TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO.
WHAT I'M THINKING IS IRRELEVANT. BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ATTITUDE...
EH?
AND WHAT KIND OF JOB DO YOU WANT?
SO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ARTIST?
PAINTER
ILLUSTRATOR
DESIGNER
FROM THE MOUTH OF A 17-YEAR OLD GIRL FROM THE COUNTRY THAT SOUNDED PRETTY PRETENTIOUS
OH, WELL...

OH...
DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BECOME TEACHER?
SORRY, THAT WAS A BAD QUESTION
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN NAKATA SMILING
NO ONE IS ABLE TO DO WHAT HE WANTS

I'M SURE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING WHAT IS FUN TO THEM.
BUT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE PART OF THEM
SO YOU'RE BETTING EVERYTHING ON TOKYO
BUT KAWAMURA ALREADY GAVE UP.
IF YOU'RE THAT SURE ABOUT THAT, I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ANYMORE.
YASUYO
WHAT?


I'D PREFER APPLYING FOR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY.
I KNOW WE AGREED ON GOING TO TOKYO TOGETHER...
BUT I WON'T MAKE IT.
I'M SORRY...
EVEN IF I DON'T BECOME AN ARTIST, I CAN CONTINUE TO PAINT.
I CAN CONTINUE TO PAINT THERE TOO.

SO YAGUYO GAVE UP...
SO WHAT? EVERY-ONE HAS TO DO WHAT HE THINKS IS RIGHT AND YOU'RE STILL DOING IT?
OF COURSE THEN I'LL GO TO TOKYO ALONE
WOW

I WANT TO GO TO A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY. AND IF IT'S POSSIBLE I WANT TO STUDY IN ITALY FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS
AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
WOW...
IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I'LL GO THERE TO SEE MICHELANGELO
MICHELANGE-LO'S FRESCO?
I ABSOLUTELY WANT TO SEE THE SIXTINIAN CHAPEL
THE SCULP-TURES?

WHEN ADAM AND EVA ARE BANISHED FROM PARADISE
THE LAST JUDGEMENT IS GREAT, BUT I LIKE THE GENESIS EVEN MORE.
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE.
SOON WE'LL BE BANISHED TOO.

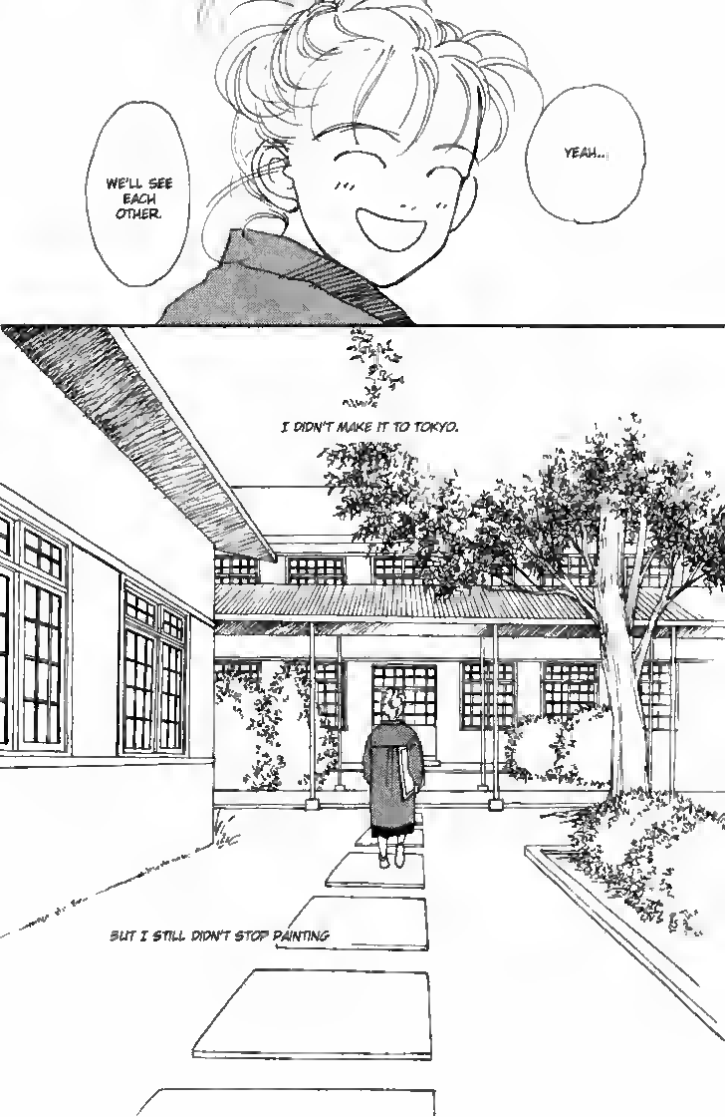
EH?
THE MOVING IS ALREADY DECIDED.
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
THEY'LL SURELY KNOCK IT DOWN
IN 2 YEARS THE NEW BUILDINGS IN OITA WILL BE DONE
NOBODY NEEDS THESE ROTTEN HOUSES ANYMORE.
WE WERE HERE FOR THREE YEARS... AND NOW WE'RE FINALLY DONE.
THEY'VE DONE THEIR DUTY.

IF WE COME BACK, THIS SCHOOL WON'T EXIST ANYMORE.
TOO BAD THAT IT'LL JUST DISAP-PEAR LIKE THAT.
IT'S JUST MOVING.
BUT OUR SCHOOL WAS HERE.
LET US KEEP IT IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER.

YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR ANOTHER UNIVERSITY TOO.
JUST IN CASE THEY DON'T TAKE YOU
NO...
IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I'LL STOP PAINTING.
WHY THAT?
IF YOU LACK TALENT, IT'S EASY TO GIVE UP IT'S MORE DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE A LITTLE BIT TALENT
THERE ARE GREAT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE BUT THEIR NUMBER WAS LIMITED IN ADVANCE

I'LL STOP PAINTING...
IF TOKYO DOESN'T TAKE ME...
YOU'RE NOT ONLY ARROGANT, YOU'RE ALSO OBSTINATE
THAT SOUNDS LIKE YASUYO AND I HAVE ONLY A LITTLE BIT TALENT...
I'M JUST SEEING MY OWN STUFF...

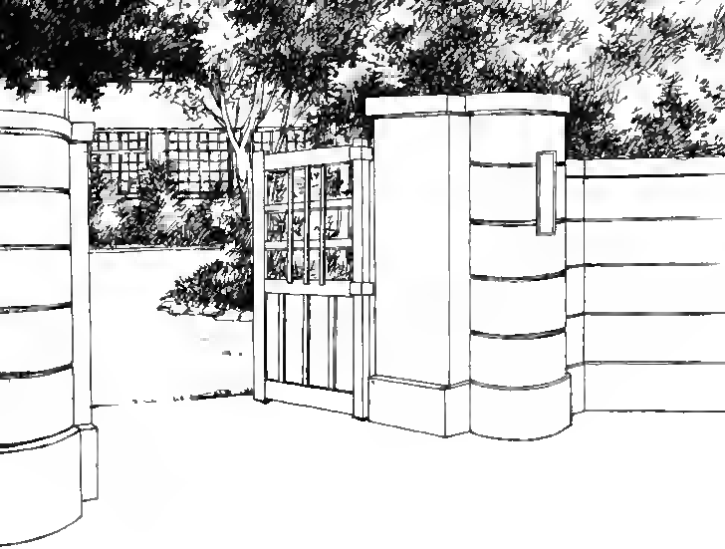
TAMAKO
:
WHEN YOU'RE FAMOUS, WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN


WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER.
YEAH...
I DIDN'T MAKE IT TO TOKYO.
BUT I STILL DIDN'T STOP PAINTING

AKIMIKO WASN'T ABLE TO GO TO ITALY, HE'S WORKING AS ART TEACHER AT AN HIGH SCHOOL

YASUYO WAS STUDYING IN THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY. AFTER HER GRADUATION SHE ACCEPTED A JOB IN A MUSEUM. SHE PAINTS ADDITIONALLY AND NOW AND THEN SHE ALSO EXHIBITS HER DRAWINGS.

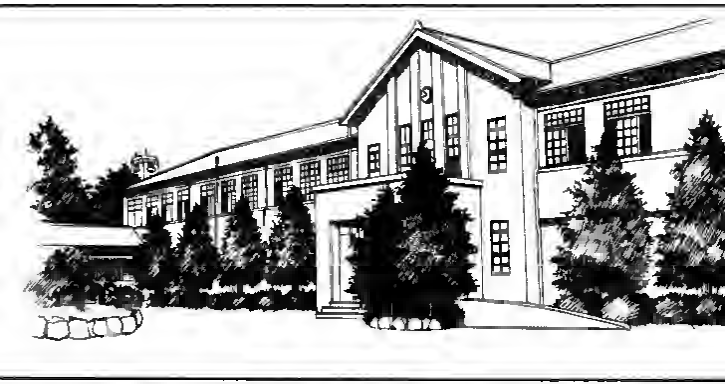
KOIKE RUNS A SNACK BAR.. AND MOST GIRLS OF MY CLASS BECAME HOUSEWIVES



TEACHER NAKATA DIED IN THE MEAN-TIME GOTAMA IS STILL OKAY

AFTER WE GRADUATED, OUR SCHOOL MOVED TO OITA.

THE OLD BUILDINGS WERE KNOCKED DOWN AND DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY.



EDEN WILL STAY IN MY MEMORIES FOREVER.

SEE YOU IN EDEN - END.